

THE HARDEST PART

An Opportune Time!

GROWTH GUIDE MARCH 9, 2025

*The First Sunday in Lent
Scripture: Luke 4:1-13*

AUTHOR

Luke, a Gentile, Greek, doctor, close friend and companion of the Apostle Paul. Luke was a historian, put great emphasis on dates and details, and connected Jesus to events and people in history. Luke's purpose was to present an accurate account of the life of Jesus. He stressed Jesus' relationships with people, gave a prominent place to women and showed Jesus' concern for women. Luke wrote his gospel around A.D. 60, from Rome or possibly from Caesarea, and it is the most comprehensive of the gospels.

CONTEXT

John the Baptist came before Jesus to prepare the way. Some people questioned him asking if he was the Messiah. John's response was that he baptizes with water but someone is coming soon who is greater than he and will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Jesus has been baptized and is now ready to begin his public ministry.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 4:1-13. After Jesus is baptized, how does verse 1 describe him?
2. Where does the Holy Spirit lead him?
3. Does it bother you that God allowed his Son to be tempted?
4. Read Luke 3:22. How may this have triggered the devil?
5. Why do you think Jesus was tempted? Was it necessary? Read Hebrews 4:15.
6. What are the 3 temptations that Jesus faced?
7. The devil offers Jesus the world in the 2nd temptation, if he will worship the devil. Had Jesus accepted this offer, how might it have affected our salvation?

8. Discuss each temptation. Each time he was tempted, how did Jesus respond?
9. Ephesians tells us to put on all of God's armor so we will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. What does Ephesians 6:12 say we are fighting against? Read Ephesians 6:17. What specifically does it say is an effective weapon against temptation?
10. In times of trial or wilderness times, what do you do for comfort ?
11. Do you ask the Holy Spirit to guide and direct you in times of trials and temptations? If so, what does that look like in your life?
12. How will you prepare for those opportune times of temptation we will all face?
13. The devil tempts us through our weaknesses but also often tempts us through our strengths. Jesus was tempted where he was strong. What is the danger when we give in to the devil and wrongly use our strengths? To avoid this, how must we view our strengths?
14. The Season of Lent has begun and it is a wilderness time, a time to examine our hearts, to confess and repent, to draw closer to God, and to grow spiritually in our walk with Jesus. How will you take advantage of this?

NOTES