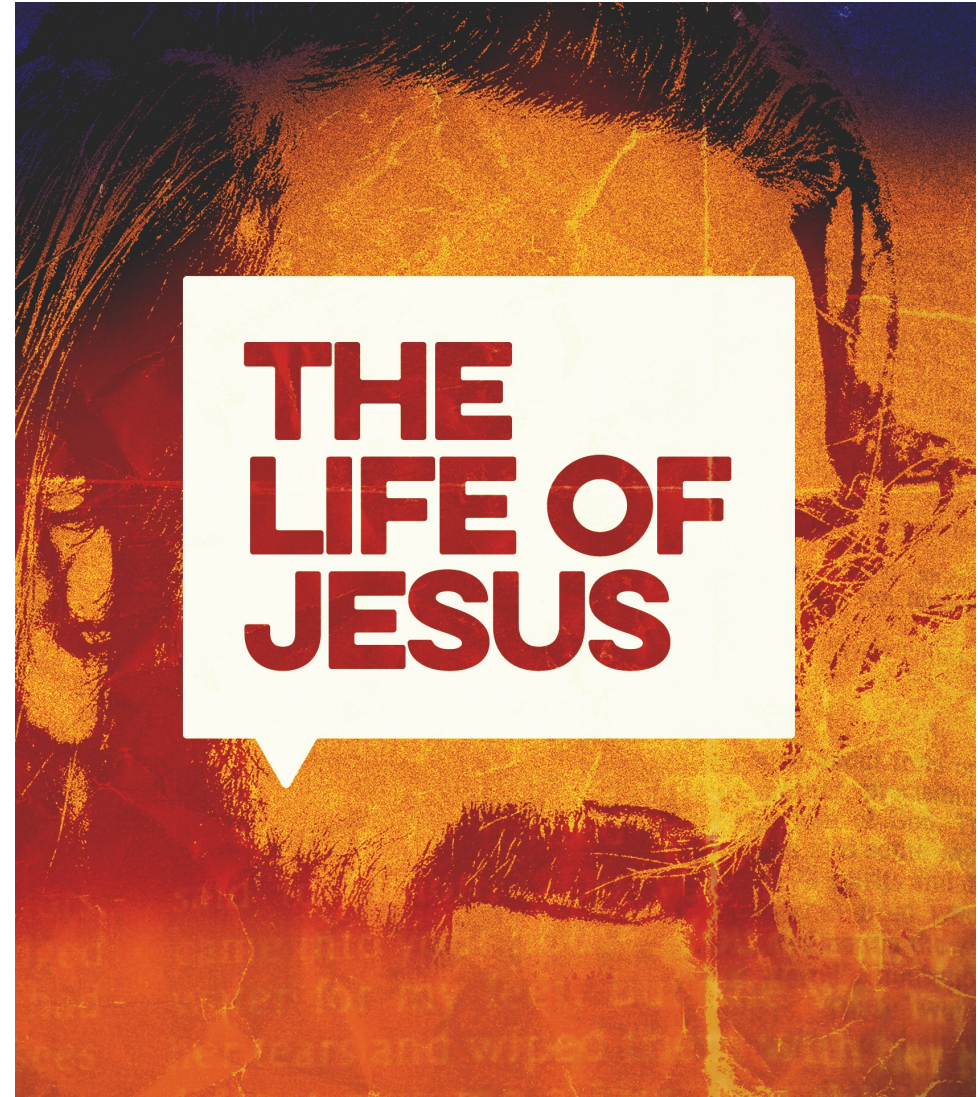


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SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

NORTH: Jan. 10/14 | **SOUTH:** Jan. 17/21 | **CHAPEL:** Jan. 28



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Pastor Paul Nynas



This study guide was written by the Pastors at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND. Find this resource and others at FARGOHOPE.ORG/RESOURCES

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

READ: Genesis 3:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11

Temptation! It is a reality of life. To be human means you will be tempted. It's important to face the fact that you will be tempted. How will you handle the temptations that come at you? Will you give in, give up, or look up towards God who will help you overcome those temptations?

Jesus himself, as a human being, was tempted and the Bible wants us to know that. He faced the kinds of temptations we all face. The tempter came at him with a physical temptation. Jesus was fasting as a part of his spiritual discipline to prepare himself for God's call upon his life. The devil said, "If you are who you say you are turn the stones to bread." Jesus didn't give in to this physical temptation but looked up to God and replied to the tempter, "People need more than bread, they must feed on every word from God."

Next, he was tempted emotionally. "If you are who you think you are, test God by jumping from this high place for God will protect you." Jesus again didn't give in to the tempter's appeal to doubt, but looked up to God and said, "God is God and you don't test him with deals and doubts."

Finally, Jesus was tempted with power. This was a spiritual test. Would Jesus look up to God or to an idolatrous vision of power in his life. The tempter said to Jesus, "Worship me and all power on earth shall be yours." Jesus again looked up to God and said to the tempter he faced, "Scram Satan! God is God and I will worship only him."

When tempted physically, emotionally, and spiritually Jesus looked up to God and in so doing overcame the temptations that he faced. His example of how he faced temptations is a powerful example for all followers of Jesus in facing the temptations of our lives!

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. Temptation is a part of being human. Why do you suppose that is?

2. Adam and Eve faced temptation and failed. How did it affect their relationship with each other and with God?

3. What kinds of temptations are common to all people?

4. Name some physical, emotional, and spiritual temptations that are commonly experienced today. Which are the most challenging temptations you face?

5. Does it surprise you that Jesus himself was tempted? Why or why not?

6. When you look at how Jesus faced the temptations that came at him, what do you learn about how you might face temptations that come at you?

PRAYER

Father, by your Spirit's power at work in our lives, help us always be on guard for the temptations that come our way whether those be physical, emotional or spiritual temptations. Deliver us from the lies with which the evil one tempts us. Give us the courage and conviction to face temptation by looking up to your Son's example. May his example and his grace lead us along paths of righteousness, living in communion with you, our Lord and our God. In Jesus' name. Amen.