

# God's Story Your Story

January 18, 2015



Tempted in the  
Wilderness

*Matthew 4:1-17*

*Faith 5 – A pattern for shaping a life of faith*

## SHARE:

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**READ** Reflect on the key verse from Sunday's reading,

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Matthew 4:1*

## TALK

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- How does a community come to agreement about which laws, rules, or norms are to be followed? Which rules or norms are unique to your setting? How are they followed? How are they enforced?
- What tempts you the most? How can your faith help you resist temptation?

## PRAY

Lord Jesus, you proved to be a formidable foe for the tempter. Give us strength to resist the temptations of this world, and rejoice in the heavenly gifts promised to all who follow you, for the glory of the Lord. Amen.

## BLESS:

God who gives strength when we are tempted, remind us as we hear your word that you understand what we face. Thank you for sending Jesus. Amen.

## Some Background

Jesus began his ministry with 40 days of fasting and praying. During that time, the devil took advantage of his weakened physical state to attempt to tempt Jesus to abandon God and worship him.

The first temptation preyed on his hunger, tempting him to break his God-honoring fast. The second temptation preyed on his ego, tempting him to prove that he was God's son. The final temptation preyed on his ambition, tempting him to give up God in exchange for the whole world. But Jesus resisted each temptation, knowing that the rewards of heaven far outweighed any temporary satisfaction earthly desires could offer.

## Follow these stories of temptation and Jesus' early ministry.

Sunday, Matthew 4:1-17, *Tempted in the Wilderness*

Monday, Psalm 91:9-12, *Psalm*

Tuesday, Genesis 1:26-27, *Creation of Humanity*

Wednesday, Genesis 3:1-7, *Temptation in the Garden of Eden*

Thursday, Deuteronomy 8:1-10, *A Warning from God*

Friday, Matthew 4:18-22, *Jesus Calls the First Disciples*

Saturday, Matthew 4:23-25, *Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People*