

**Matthew 3:16-4:11 (ESV)**  
**The Temptation of Jesus**

**3** 16-17 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, *“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”*

**4** 1-2 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

3-5 And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, *“It is written: ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”*

5-7 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple **6** and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and, “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus said to him, *“Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”*

**8** Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. **9** And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” **10** Then Jesus said to him, *“Be gone, Satan! For it is written: “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”*

**11** Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

**The Temptation of Jesus**  
**10 Questions for Study Groups**  
*(Participant Sheet)*

1. What struck you as surprising or peculiar about the opening scene of this story from Jesus' life (3:16-4:2)?
2. What did the Devil stand to gain by tempting Jesus to fail? Why did it matter so much to him?
3. What was interesting about both the tactics and lines of attack Satan used?
4. How vulnerable was Jesus at this point?
5. Why did God allow the test in the first place?
6. What help was available to Jesus to not fail under such intense pressure?
7. Are these sources open to everyone or only for Jesus as the Son of God? Explain.
8. What do we learn about God from *this* passage?
9. What do we learn about ourselves (as human beings) from *this* passage?
10. How does this picture of Jesus offer hope for: (1) our everyday lives and struggles, and (2) the future?