



**Other Notices:** Hey wonderful small group leaders, here are a few notices to share with your group!

**Work Party** - There is a work party happening on 18th Feb at our City Centre Site, please encourage your groups to come along and help. Head to [bvc.so/workparty](http://bvc.so/workparty) to sign up!

**Baptisms** - There is an opportunity to get baptised at Easter, start chatting to and think about people in your group that may want to be baptised. Head to [bvc.so/baptism](http://bvc.so/baptism) for the full details.

## **The Clash of Kingdoms – The Temptation of Jesus**

**Date:** Sunday 5th February 2023

**Speaker:** Paul Gatting // Rob Masters

**Key Verses:** John 1:1-5

### **Talk Summary:**

At the end of the previous chapter, Jesus is baptised and His identity as the Son of God is confirmed by encouraging words from His Father and He is filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately after He is led to the wilderness to fast for forty days. In the midst of this extreme tiredness and hunger the devil tempts Him in three different ways. What can we learn from each of them?

### **Temptation 1 (v3-4)**

The devil tempts Jesus, as the Son of God, to end this fast by supernaturally conjuring up some bread from some nearby rocks. But the Spirit of God had led Jesus to the desert to fast for a reason – to deprive Himself of food so that He could focus on His relationship with His Father. Jesus responds quoting from Deuteronomy 8, that we need to be sustained not just physically but spiritually as well.

### **Temptation 2 (v5-7)**

The devil now tries to get Jesus to put His relationship with His heavenly Father to the test by throwing Himself from the highest point of the temple and forcing God to rescue Him. The devil quotes Psalm 91, which is about trusting God and taking refuge in Him, but tries to make it seem like something that can be used to test God's faithfulness. Jesus responds by quoting again from Deuteronomy, but accurately applying that passage which instructs us not to put God to the test. Jesus trusted in His relationship with His Father enough not to have to prove it publicly.

### **Temptation 3 (v8-10)**

Finally, the devil goes big and offers to give Jesus all the authority of the kingdoms of the earth if Jesus would just bow down and worship him. Satan only has temporary authority of these kingdoms (see 2 Corinthians 4:4 "the god of this age") but Jesus knows that by sacrificing Himself on the cross, He will ultimately see the Kingdom of God spread throughout all heaven and earth. He refuses to worship Satan and betray His heavenly Father for temporary glory because He knows His path of suffering will lead to something more glorious and enduring.

How can we learn from Jesus how to flip the temptations and trials we experience around into something positive?

STRUGGLES -> LESSONS

LIES -> TRUTH

SHORTCUTS -> PATIENT OBEDIENCE

### **Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant your group)**

1. What are you like when you're tired and hungry? Grumpy, quiet, irritable, short-tempered?
2. What situations do you feel like you're at your weakest and most prone to making bad decisions? Are there any practical habits that you think you can introduce to help avoid making mistakes in those situations?
3. Have you ever been tempted to compromise your values to get something you wanted?

4. Are there any lies from the enemy that you find yourself paying too much attention to? How can you remind yourself of the truth from God that contradicts those lies?

## **Worship**

Small group Worship & Prayer resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship)