

**INTRO**

- Name one indulgence or “guilty pleasure” you have?

**READ**

Luke 4:1-15

**REFLECT & RESPOND**

In this last part of The Way of the Wilderness, we look at Jesus’ encounter in the wilderness. Luke tells us Jesus was led into the Wilderness by the Holy Spirit: Why? What happened there? And what does this have to do with us? That’s what we’re going to look at today.

**JESUS WAS TEMPTED**

Jesus was tempted 3 times by the Devil in the areas of:

- **Pleasure** - after 40 days of fasting, Jesus was naturally hungry. The Devil looks for our vulnerabilities and weaknesses to take advantage of, particularly when we are hungry, isolated or tired.
- **Position** - the Devil was offering Jesus a shortcut to the position God destined him for. Shortcuts are tempting, but they invariably short-circuit God’s plan and purposes for us.
- **Power** - the Devil used Scripture to bait Jesus to get him to prove his divinity. Satan knows scripture well but perverts its use for personal gain.

There’s nothing new under the sun. Our temptations and sins may feel unique to us, but we are all vulnerable to seeking pleasure, position and power outside of God.

*Qu: Out of the 3, which temptation is more real to you currently?*

**JESUS WAS TESTED**

Whilst God never tempts us towards evil, God uses the Wilderness seasons to test us. In Luke 3:21-22 after Jesus’ baptism, God the Father audibly affirms Jesus in his:

- **Identity** - “you are my son”
- **Security** - “my beloved son”
- **Value** - “with you I am well pleased”

Straight after that Jesus is led into the Wilderness. His identity, security and value is being tested — will he submit and rely on God’s word or will he take matters into his own hands?

*Qu: what might God want to achieve by testing you in the areas of your identity, security and value?*

God uses the Wilderness to affirm who He is and help us see who we really are, and how God sees us.

**JESUS WAS TRIUMPHANT**

Where Israel failed in their wilderness experience, Jesus emerges triumphant and empowered by the Holy Spirit. And because Jesus was triumphant, we can be too through his power.

On the other side of temptation, testing, and this Wilderness experience, God wants you to emerge triumphant, more resilient, secure in who God is & who you are, and with greater power for life and ministry through his Spirit.

*Qu: practically, how can we activate Jesus’ triumph in our own lives especially when we feel tempted and tested?*

**RESPOND & PRAY**

- Pray for one another to be strengthened and encouraged
- Pray for one another to be able to withstand whatever tempting and testing is going on right now.