

# LENT TO HOLY WEEK

Week 1	Sunday 9 March
Week 2	Sunday 16 March
Week 3	Sunday 23 March
Week 4	Sunday 30 March
Week 5	Sunday 6 April
Week 6	Sunday 13 April

**Holy week: 14 April to 19 April**

We welcome you joining us on the Liturgical journey from Lent to Holy Week. This material reflects the Sunday sermons ensuring the whole church is on the same page and can take the learnings deeper with scripture readings, daily devotions and questions for group discussions. May you draw closer to God whilst learning His truths, find the journey transformative, and experience God's love for you in a very deep and real way.

## *Week 1 Sunday 9 March - Tested by the devil*

**Bring God into the meeting with prayer, lighting a candle, listening to a worship song.**

Abide with me (with lyrics) <https://youtu.be/xRHUebvPsig?si=K6c0bGFDCdewIQDZ>

**Read the Bible readings provided:**

### **Liturgical Date: First Sunday in Lent**

First reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Second reading: Romans 10:8b-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

*Luke 4:1-13 - The Message*

### **Tested by the Devil**

**4** <sup>1-2</sup> Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: "Since you're God's Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: "It takes more than bread to really live." <sup>5-7</sup> For the second test he led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. Then the Devil said, "They're yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I'm in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish. Worship me and they're yours, the whole works." <sup>8</sup> Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: "Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute singleheartedness." <sup>9-11</sup> For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple. He said, "If you are God's Son, jump. It's written, isn't it, that 'he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; they will catch you; you won't so much as stub your toe on a stone?'" <sup>12</sup> "Yes," said Jesus, "and it's also written, 'Don't you dare tempt the Lord your God.'" <sup>13</sup> That completed the testing. The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.

## A reflection on the Bible reading by: Limpho Dhlamini

Temptation is so common in the lives of people, especially Christians as we are more aware of it. We've all experienced it, if not daily. We pray about it: Lord "lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." Sometimes it may feel like it will never end. But the one thing that should give us all hope, is that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ went through it as well. After Jesus is baptised, He is led by the Holy Spirit to the desert where He fasts for 40 days and is tempted by the devil. The devil attempted to stop God's plans and purposes. If Jesus had given over to any one of the temptations and therefore sinned, He would not have been the perfect lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.



The devil tempted Jesus in 3 ways which John sums up as "the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life" (1 John 2:16). Jesus resists all these temptations by using the Scriptures. A good Bible student, which I hope you are, would see that Jesus' responses are all references to the days of Israel in the desert. The desert then becomes synonymous with times of testing, but unlike Israel, Jesus teaches us to not fall so easily into the temptation of this world and the evil one but also shows how we are to resist.

As Jesus is tempted with the **desires of the flesh**, represented by the turning of stones into bread, He reminds us of the time Israel cried out to God and received the heavenly bread, manna, to sustain them daily, a test in and of itself to see if Israel would truly trust God to provide not just for today, but tomorrow as He has said and obey Him. Do you trust God's word enough to obey?

The second testing is that of the **desires or lust of the eyes**, the riches, power and authority in the world. The devil offers Jesus the kingdoms of the world along with all their authority, power, and riches, but at a deathly cost – worshipping the evil one. Jesus, knowing all that His Father has prepared for Him, a Kingdom without end, rejects the offer with a reminder to worship the LORD your God alone, serving Him alone, not rejecting Him as your God by falling into idolatry. How have you fallen into idolatry to obtain riches, power and authority?

The last temptation speaks to **the pride of life**, but more than that, testing God's word and faithfulness. Will God truly what He has said? Will He be faithful to His word? But the Bible reminds us that "God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfil it?" (Numbers 23:19). And so "Do not put the Lord your God to the test" (Luke 4:12) as the children of Israel did at Massah, crying out for water (Exodus 17).

As we continue in the journey this Lent, let us commit to equip ourselves with the Word of God which is the truth and sword to fight against temptations and evil. Let us trust our God in all things and for all things, not rejecting Him, but putting Him first and foremost as the desire of our hearts. And may God strengthen and challenge us as we continue to reflect, repent and be renewed in Him.

### Questions for group discussion:

1. In what ways can we be tempted with the desires of the flesh?
2. In what ways can we be tempted with the lust of the eyes that we commit idolatry?
3. In what ways can we be tempted with pride and arrogance or to test God?
4. How will you equip yourself during this time to fight against the schemes of the flesh and the evil one?

### Daily lectionary readings:

- **Thursday, March 06, 2025:** [Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#); [Exodus 5:10-23](#); [Acts 7:30-34](#);
- **Friday, March 07, 2025:** [Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#); [Exodus 6:1-13](#); [Acts 7:35-42](#);
- **Saturday, March 08, 2025:** [Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#); [Ecclesiastes 3:1-8](#); [John 12:27-36](#);

- **Sunday, March 09, 2025:** [First Sunday in Lent](#)
- **Monday, March 10, 2025:** [Psalm 17; 1 Chronicles 21:1-17; 1 John 2:1-6;](#)
- **Tuesday, March 11, 2025:** [Psalm 17; Zechariah 3:1-10; 2 Peter 2:4-21;](#)
- **Wednesday, March 12, 2025:** [Psalm 17; Job 1:1-22; Luke 21:34-22:6;](#)
- **Thursday, March 13, 2025:** [Psalm 27; Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18; Philippians 3:2-12;](#)
- **Friday, March 14, 2025:** [Psalm 27; Genesis 14:17-24; Philippians 3:17-20;](#)
- **Saturday, March 15, 2025:** [Psalm 27; Psalm 118:26-29; Matthew 23:37-39;](#)



## **FAMILY TIME:**

Written by Jenny Blake – CHILDREN’S PASTOR – [jennyb@bmc.org.za](mailto:jennyb@bmc.org.za)

### **Week 1 - Tested by the Devil**

**Scripture:** Luke 4:1-13 (The Message)

**Key Verse:** “Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: ‘It takes more than bread to really live.’” (Luke 4:4)

### **Introduction**

Have you ever been really hungry? Maybe you’ve had to wait a long time for food, and it was hard to think about anything else! In today’s story, Jesus was very hungry after fasting for 40 days, and that’s when the devil tried to tempt Him. But Jesus showed us how to stand strong against temptation.

### **Bible Story Recap**

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness, where He fasted for 40 days. While He was hungry and tired, the devil tried to tempt Him three times:

1. **Turn stones into bread** – Jesus refused, saying that life is about more than food; it’s about God’s word.
2. **Worship the devil to gain power** – Jesus said only God should be worshiped.
3. **Jump from the temple and prove He was God’s Son** – Jesus said we should never test God. Each time, Jesus responded with Scripture, showing that God’s truth is stronger than any temptation.

### **Family Discussion**

1. **Why do you think the devil tempted Jesus when He was hungry and tired?**  
Talk about how temptations often come when we’re weak or struggling.
2. **How did Jesus resist temptation?**  
Discuss how knowing and trusting God’s word helped Jesus stand firm.
3. **What are some temptations we face, and how can we overcome them?**  
Share practical ways to rely on God when facing difficult choices.

### **Activity: Strength from God’s Word**

Write down some temptations your family might face (like being unkind, lying, or giving up). Then, find Bible verses that can help you stand strong. Keep these verses where you can see them as reminders.

### **Prayer**

“Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us how to stand strong when we are tempted. Help us to trust in God’s word and make good choices. Give us strength to follow You every day. Amen.”