

# Week 39: The Temptation of Jesus - Victory Through Obedience

*A Sabbath Family Bible Study*

---

## Introduction

Immediately after His baptism, Jesus was led into the wilderness, not into comfort, affirmation, or public success, but into testing. This shows us a critical truth, that obedience does not eliminate temptation, it only helps to prepare us for it.

Jesus confronted temptation not with miracles, arguments, or displays of power, but with submission to God's Word. He did not debate Satan, nor did he negotiate obedience - He stood firmly on Scripture. This week teaches families that spiritual victory is not achieved through strength of will alone, but through obedience, discipline, and reliance on God's truth.

---

## Scripture Reading

---

### Matthew 4:1–2 Led into Testing

*1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.*

*2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*

### Commentary

Jesus was *led by the Spirit* into temptation - his testing was not a punishment. God allowed this confrontation to demonstrate his obedience under pressure. Hunger, weakness, and isolation often accompany temptation. Families should learn that testing is not inherently evidence of failure, but an opportunity for faithfulness.

---

## **Matthew 4:3–4 - Temptation to Distrust God**

*3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.*

*4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

### **Commentary**

Satan's first temptation attacked trust. He invited Jesus to meet a legitimate need through disobedience. Jesus responded not by denying hunger, but by affirming God's authority. Obedience to God's Word outweighs immediate comfort. Families are reminded that provision must never be pursued apart from obedience.

---

## **Matthew 4:5–7 - Temptation to Presume upon God**

*5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,*

*6 And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

*7 Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*

### **Commentary**

Here Satan misused Scripture to encourage reckless faith. Jesus corrected Scripture with Scripture, refusing to test God's faithfulness. True faith does not demand proof; it rests in obedience. Families must learn that God's promises are not licenses for presumption or pride.

---

## **Matthew 4:8–10 - Temptation to Bypass the Cross**

*8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;*

*9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.*

*10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

### **Commentary**

This temptation offered authority without obedience to God and glory without any sacrifice. Jesus rejected shortcuts that violated God's order. Victory came through unwavering allegiance to God's word. Families are reminded that compromise always demands worship in return, and only God is worthy of worship.

---

## **Matthew 4:11 - God's Provision Follows Obedience**

*11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.*

### **Commentary**

Only after obedience did relief come, God's provision followed faithfulness, not before it. Jesus trusted the Father fully, and the Father sustained Him, In this families are taught that endurance in obedience invites God's care and protection in their lives.

---

## **Discussion Questions for All Ages**

### **Young Children**

- Who tempted Jesus?
- What did Jesus use to answer temptation?
- Who did Jesus obey?

### **Older Children & Teens**

- Why did Jesus refuse shortcuts?
- How can Scripture help us resist temptation?
- What kinds of temptations try to pull us away from obedience?

## Adults

- Where are we most tempted to compromise obedience for comfort or control?
  - Do we treat Scripture as authority or convenience?
  - How does disciplined obedience protect the household?
- 

## Psalm Reading

### Psalm 119:9–16 (KJV)

*9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*

*10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.*

*11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*

*12 Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.*

*13 With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.*

*14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.*

*15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.*

*16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.*

### Commentary

Victory over temptation begins with storing God’s Word in the heart. Scripture is not merely for study, it is for survival. Families are reminded that discipline in God’s Word strengthens resistance against sin.

---

## Hymn: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

By William Williams (1745)

**1**

*Guide me, O my great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.*

**2**

*Open now the crystal fountain,  
where the healing waters flow.  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,  
ever be my strength and shield,  
ever be my strength and shield.*

**3**

*When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever sing to you,  
I will ever sing to you.*

---

## **Family Application Points**

### **1. Stand on God's Word**

Jesus answered every temptation with Scripture. Families must treat God's Word as final authority, not just "good advice."

### **2. Reject Shortcuts**

Temptation often offers faster results through disobedience, while faithfulness refuses gains that require compromise.

### **3. Trust God's Provision**

Jesus trusted the Father to provide in His timing. Families are shown that obedience never leaves God's people abandoned.

#### **4. Guard Worship Carefully**

Every temptation ultimately asks who we will serve. True victory comes from worshiping God alone.

#### **5. Endure Until Relief Comes**

Temptation has an end. Faithful endurance invites God's intervention and care.

---

### **A Sabbath Feast Prayer**

Father, we thank You for the example of Your Son, who resisted temptation through obedience to Your Word. As we sit at this table, bless this food before us and bless the loving hands that prepared it. Strengthen our family to resist compromise, to trust Your provision, and to worship You alone. Guard our hearts and minds as we seek to walk faithfully before You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

---

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord, teach us to face temptation with obedience, humility, and trust in Your Word. Strengthen our family to resist shortcuts, reject compromise, and stand firm in truth. Help us store Your Word in our hearts so that we may walk in faithfulness even when tested. May our home be marked by discipline, worship, and endurance under Your care. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.