



# Small Group Study Guide for January 19, 2020

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

**Theme:** Jesus faced temptation in the wilderness for us – to be our Savior and live a perfect life in our place. He also shows us how to wield the sword of the Spirit, especially in the face of temptation. We are not unaware of the devil’s schemes, but are equipped with a powerful weapon, - the word of God.

## **Getting Started:**

1. See if you can each recite a few Bible verses from memory.
2. What is your favorite Bible verse?

## **In the Word: Matthew 4:1-11**

3. Notice that Jesus is ‘led by the Spirit’ in verse 1. When did Jesus receive ‘the Spirit’? (look at the end of chapter 3)
4. What is the purpose of fasting from a spiritual point of view, and why do you think Jesus was fasting?
5. Jesus’ enemy is called by three different names/titles in these verses. Can you find all three?
6. Jesus is tempted by physical sustenance – bread for His hungry stomach, and to break His fast merely for ‘proving’ His identity to Satan. But Jesus already had an affirmation from the Father (at His baptism!) and didn’t need to prove anything. What Scripture passage from the Old Testament did Jesus quote to resist the temptation to turn the stones to bread? (look at the footnotes on vs 4)

7. Jesus was again tempted to display His command over angels in order to prove to Satan that He truly was the Son of God. What is different about Satan's temptation this second time than the first?
  
8. Why is it important to know that the devil can twist Scripture and knows the Bible forwards and backwards?
  
9. How does Jesus respond to the devil's misuse of Scripture? (vs. 7)
  
10. Does Satan really 'own' all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor, and is he able to give it to Jesus in return for worship?
  
11. Jesus once again resists temptation by citing Scripture. Which passage does Jesus cite in vs. 10?

### **Putting it all Together**

12. How can we use the Word of God when facing temptation?
  
13. Is there any difference between 'temptation' and 'testing'?
  
14. What are some practical ways that we can refute the devil, fight temptation, and cling to Christ?

**Prayer:** Thank our Heavenly Father that Jesus resisted the devil for us, in our place, so that we might be given His righteousness. Ask God to strengthen us in the face of temptation and to wield the sword of the Spirit, and to call upon the Name of Jesus in every pray, praise, trouble, and give thanks.

**Next Week:** We look at the call of the disciples, and Jesus' invitation to you and me to 'follow Him'.