

## JESUS DEFEATS THE DEVIL

Matthew 4:1-11

Key Verse: 4:4

1. Read verses 1-3. Where did the Spirit lead Jesus after his baptism? For what purpose? (1) Why did God want his Son to face this difficult trial at the beginning of his ministry? (Eph 6:11,12) What does the Bible tell us about the devil? (Jn 8:44; Jude 6; Rev 12:9; Job 1:6) Why is he called “the tempter?”

2. Read verses 1-4 again. How did Jesus spend the first 40 days in the desert? Why? What was the devil’s first temptation? Why does he preface the temptations with “If you are the Son of God?” (3,6) Why is this temptation a very real one to Jesus?

3. Why is the bread problem so serious for all people? In what sense is the bread problem a life problem? How did Jesus answer the tempter? (4) What does this mean? (Compare John 6:27,35) What can we learn from Jesus?

4. Why did Jesus choose not to use his supernatural power to make bread when he was hungry? What was his weapon in doing battle with the tempter? (Heb 4:12; Eph 6:17)

5. Read verses 5-7. What was the second temptation? In what respect was the devil’s suggestion a temptation for Jesus? How did the tempter try to convince Jesus it was okay for him to do this? When does this temptation come to us? How did Jesus answer the tempter? What can we learn from this answer?

6. Read verses 8-11. What was the third temptation? In what way does this temptation fit Jesus’ own goals and purpose? Why was the devil’s offer tempting to Jesus? How does this temptation come to us? How did Jesus answer? What can we learn from him?

7. How did Jesus defeat the devil in all of these temptations? How can we?