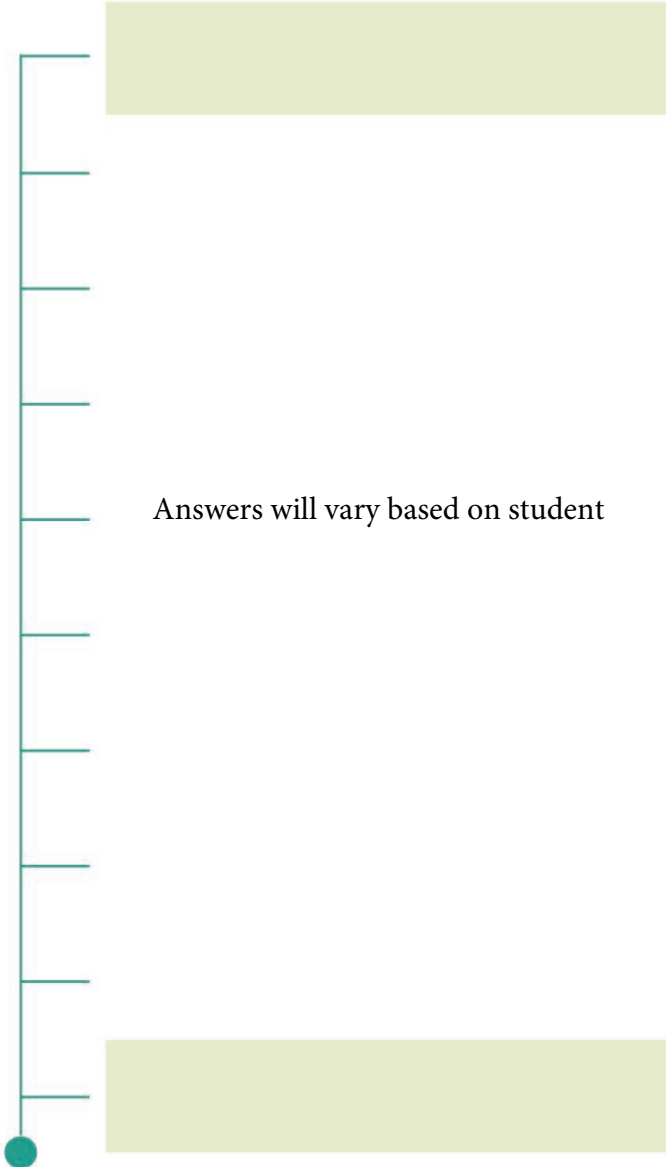


# SESSION 1

## GETTING STARTED

What do you fear? Work with your group to flesh out the scale you see below.



# SESSION 1

## DIGGING IN

Work with your group to read the passages and answer the questions below.

### THINK ABOUT THIS . . .

- Do you think experiencing temptation to sin is the same as sinning?
- How aware are you of being tempted? Do you realize it when it's happening?
- Do you ever feel feelings of shame or guilt over your sin? Does it ever feel like your sin disqualifies you from being someone God could use?

### PART 1: MATTHEW 4:1-4

- **Summarize what's happening in this passage.**

Satan is tempting Jesus.

- **In these verses, what was Satan tempting Jesus with?**

Jesus, like any of us, was extremely hungry after fasting for 40 days.

- **What would have been the big deal if Jesus had just turned rocks into bread?**

To do so would have been to go against God's plan. It would have been to make the trial easier. This would mean that Jesus would have sinned.

- **How did Jesus respond to the devil and what can we learn from it?**

Jesus quoted Scripture. God's plan was more important than any momentary needs. A great reminder for us as we engage with temptation.

- **Here's a bigger question: Could Jesus have sinned?**

Jesus was fully God. But He was also fully human. He 100% had the capability to sin. But He didn't. He resisted Satan's temptation to feed Himself.

- **Why is it essential that Jesus lived a sinless life?**

Because Jesus died in order to satisfy the payment for the sin of all humankind. To do so, He had to be a perfect sacrifice. If He had sinned, God's plan would have been thwarted.

## PART 2: MATTHEW 4:5-7

- **Satan wasn't finished! What did the devil tempt Jesus with in these verses?**

He took Jesus to the top of the Temple in Jerusalem. He challenged Jesus to throw Himself off to force God to save His life.

- **Can you guess why this might have been tempting to Jesus?**

It would have been witnessed by hundreds if not thousands of people. It would have been a way for Jesus to identify Himself as the Messiah, potentially fast-tracking His ministry.

- **What was Jesus' response?**

Jesus again quoted Scripture. Jesus knew better than to put God to the test. He had confidence in God's plan.

## PART 3: MATTHEW 4:8-11

- **What did Satan do this time? And what was Jesus' response?**

Satan wanted Jesus to take a shortcut. Satan tried to get Jesus to believe he could give Jesus the worship of all nations, trying to tempt Jesus to forgo the trial of His arrest and crucifixion. Again Jesus quoted Scripture.

- **What can we learn from Jesus' example here?**

But lead students to see that trusting in God and His plan is always the right response. This is what Jesus modeled for us.

"NO TEMPTATION HAS OVERTAKEN YOU THAT IS NOT COMMON TO MAN. GOD IS FAITHFUL, AND HE WILL NOT LET YOU BE TEMPTED BEYOND YOUR ABILITY, BUT WITH THE TEMPTATION HE WILL ALSO PROVIDE THE WAY OF ESCAPE, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ENDURE IT."

- 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

"SUBMIT YOURSELVES THEREFORE TO GOD.  
RESIST THE DEVIL, AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU."

- JAMES 4:7

# SESSION 1

## WRAPPING UP

### **Temptation is something I am not strong enough to overcome.**

As we've learned from our Bible study today, this statement is false. And yet, it can sometimes feel true, can't it? In the space below this statement, you've got some room to write. If you were to rewrite this statement to make it true about you, what would it say?

### **There is sin in my life. God will not use me to impact the world.**

The Bible is clear. We should strive to live holy lives. Our goal should be to imitate Jesus. Sin is never OK. BUT, we will never be fully free from our sin-nature this side of heaven. Jesus dies to free us from sin's consequences. Just because you will struggle with sin doesn't mean that God will not use you powerfully to impact the world for His sake. Strive to imitate Jesus. But trust in Jesus' ability to make you holy in God's eyes. And be bold in your faith.

### **I am fearful in the face of sin and temptation.**

This sentence is a little different. It may be true about you. But here's the truth: it doesn't have to be. Whether this is true about you today or not, re-write this sentence to have it reflect what should be the goal for each of us.