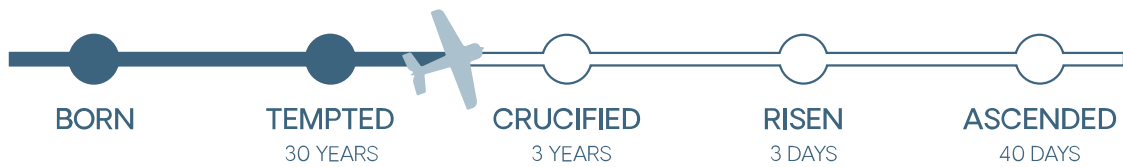




Session 7: Tempted



Preparation:

Read the 'Tempted' chapter in *Fly Through the Bible*.

📖 **Bible readings:** Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-12, Mark 1:12-13.

Introduction:

The leader can introduce the session by saying:

The birth of Jesus Christ must have set alarm bells ringing in hell, because the presence of light spells the end of darkness. Satan pursued Christ on earth in multiple ways, but through 'the temptations' as they are often called, Satan chose a direct confrontation with Jesus. Christ's temptations and obedience, in God's providence, become central to His ongoing ministry, through them He was 'made perfect' to be Saviour and the High Priest for God's people. The temptations are also reminders of the incredible mystery of the incarnation. Let's open the Bible and explore Jesus and His temptations.

First we are going to say a short prayer to ask God to work amongst us. Would someone be able to pray for us?

[Suggested prayer if you need one: Lord, please be with us now as we come around your Word together. Please renew in each of us a joy in you, a joy in your presence journeying with us, and a joy in your Word. Please let us leave here today with encouragement in our hearts. Amen]

📖 READ the Bible Together

Would anyone be happy to read a short passage of Scripture?
Matthew 4:1-11?

📺 WATCH 'Tempted' Together





Session 7: Tempted

✦ EXPLORE the Bible Together

✦ 'A Low Pass'

- Who is in the wilderness?
(a: Jesus led by the Spirit, the devil)
- Where does the enticement for Christ to turn from God's ways come from? What does Satan use for these enticements?
(a: Various answers, but overall, the enticements are from outside of Christ, from Satan, but Satan uses human needs and inner desires to try and tempt Christ hunger, doubt, success)
- How would you describe each 'temptation'?
(a: They are Satan tempting Christ with His situation and using twisting things to: doubt God's goodness and provision for Christ's human need for food, question God's faithfulness, turn to false worship for more success and power)
- How are Satan's strategies here similar to Genesis 3:4?
(a: There is a twisting of words and a suggestion of God not being good within that.)
- What is Satan's underlying aim in Matthew 4:3, 4:6 and 4:9?
(a: Divert Him/Jesus from His devotion to God, and his identity as the Son of God.)
- What do you think is the significance of 'the Spirit' having led Christ into the Wilderness as His public ministry begins?
(a: This was within Christ's providence, part of the plan to make Christ the great High Priest)
- How does Jesus resist Satan's scheme?
(a: he quotes God's Word, power of the Word, and the will of God)
- Do you find 4:11 surprising and/or encouraging?

✦ 'High Altitude Pass'

- Jesus' temptations were entirely real, and they were incredibly 'human', but how does Jesus' ability to resist temptation differ from ours?
- 'Satan only appears to have a limited number of strategies. This is evident from the parallels between his successful tempting of Adam and Eve... and his total failure to compromise... the Lord Jesus Christ.' What are your thoughts and feelings on Colin's observation?





Session 7: Tempted

✈ 'Catching a Connection'

Though Jesus' perfect endurance of the temptations he becomes the spotless sacrifice and the great high priest in the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 4:14-16, Hebrews 7:1-3, Genesis 14:18-20). The temptations are mentioned across the Bible story, and they are an important part of Jesus' role as Saviour King (Deuteronomy 6:13, 6:16 and 8:3). Explore these this week and be encouraged by Jesus' temptations meaning he could be our Saviour King.

🗨 PRAY Together

Why not use this time as a way to worship the Lord, and thank Him for giving us Christ as the spotless lamb and the High Priest for us. You could use Psalm 24 to thank God for His enduring the temptations on our behalf, and ask God for help where we feel and struggle with temptations in our daily life.

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