

# Luke *Following Jesus*

## 1. Facing Temptation

### Luke 4.1-15

**Aim:** To look at Jesus' temptation, how his ability to resist was tied into him understanding his identity as God's son and his pressing into God. Also to consider our own temptations and how we can follow his example in resisting those things.

#### To start with:

- If you could be any one else in the world or in history who would it be and why?

#### Looking at the text:

*Read Luke 3.21-38 (yes really - listening to the list is powerful!)*

1. What do you think Luke is trying to establish about Jesus' identity in these verses? How is it similar/dissimilar to how we tend to define ourselves?

#### Now Read Luke 4.1-15

2.
  - a. How are each of the devil's temptations a challenge to Jesus' identity and not simply about getting him to behave in a certain way?
  - b. How far do you think the temptations people specifically face as individuals are linked to the way they perceive themselves? e.g. - what is going on behind: sexual temptation or greed or jealousy?

**Note to Leaders:** Because Jesus was secure in his identity as the beloved Son of God, his Father's pleasure before he had

even begun his ministry or done anything, and his purpose as Messiah he had no need to 'prove himself' or his significance. That sort of security meant he was able to live up to who he actually was. Very often the temptations we face are based on trying to prove or comfort ourselves in some ways.

3. What role does the Spirit of God play in all these events? How far does it surprise you and what does that suggest about our part and God's part in dealing with temptation?
4. Why do you think Jesus quoted memorised Scripture as a response to temptation rather than responding in any other way (like justifying himself)? How far do you think Scripture might be helpful for us when we face temptation? How far have you actually found that to be true?
5.
  - a. Throughout the Old Testament there are stories of people failing to resist temptation - What examples can you think of and why do you think they were unable to obey God?
  - b. What does Jesus' success here prove and what does that mean for those of us whose identity is in Christ and living under a New Covenant?
6. 'Resisting temptation is not a dramatic event, it is one decision at a time - every day, and with God's help it is possible.'

How far do you agree with this? How far has it been your experience?

#### Reflect and pray:

**Note to Leaders:** Depending on the group you might like to get people to spend some time reflecting on this alone, or in twos or threes if appropriate - it's good to encourage people to be honest and accountable if possible.