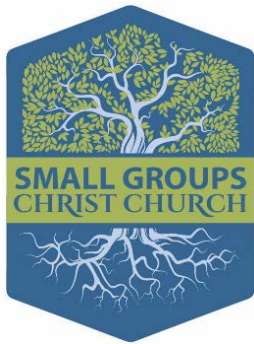


CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

The First Sunday in Lent – The Week beginning March 9, 2025



Read Luke 4:1-13:

After his baptism, Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Background:

The Greek word in the New Testament for devil is *diabolos*, meaning tester or tempter. The devil tests Jesus so to break the relationship between God the Son and God the Father. The devil whom Jesus meets in the wilderness is the same one who, as a serpent, tempted Adam and Eve. The voice has the same ring to it, the same sound—it is plausible, reasonable, and ultimately destructive. How does Jesus deal with this adversary?

Talking Points:

- Why do you think the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness for forty days?
- What tricks or techniques does the devil use to try and persuade Jesus?
- In this context, why does Jesus say, “One does not live by bread alone?” What are the other things we live by?
- Why is it wrong to put God to the test?
- At what times in our lives are we tested? How do we deal with trials and temptations?

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.