**Learn in Community**

 Small Group Study

**Volume Overview**

**Why is the Bible relevant to me?**

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. (*[*2 Timothy 3:16*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti3.16)*)*

*Our upbringing often influences our view of the Bible. For some, the Bible is that oversized book that sat covered in dust on the coffee table. For others, it’s simply a book of good morals and suggestions or, even worse, outdated laws designed to keep us from having any fun. The truth is, the Bible is the living, breathing Word of God. Through it, God speaks to those who will listen, giving guidance and correction (*[*2 Timothy 3:16–17*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti3.16-17)*). At times, Scripture brings us hope and encouragement. It has the power to transform us. As we explore how the Bible is relevant to our lives today, perhaps one question we need to answer is: How should I use God’s Word as a weapon?*

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| First time leading *Learn* for Adults? Check out the [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

**Engage**

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| **QUESTION**When you were growing up, did you usually follow the rules or push the boundaries? |

Have you ever wondered what it must have been like to grow up as Jesus? Think about it. The Son of God—fully human, but also fully God! We might assume growing up was pretty easy for Him. Thinking the right thoughts and making the right choices must have been a breeze. It’s easy to assume that just because He never sinned, He must not have experienced temptation. But that’s just not true ([Hebrews 4:15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Heb4.15)).

The reality is that because Jesus was fully human, He experienced the same temptations and range of emotions we deal with today. Let’s see how Jesus used the Bible as a weapon to overcome His temptation.

**Watch**

As we watch this video, consider these questions: Have you thought about the Bible as a weapon before? Have you used it as one against temptation?



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| **QUESTION**Have you thought about the Bible as a weapon before? Have you used it as one against temptation? |

**Consider What the Bible Says**

After Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River, He followed the leading of the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to pray and fast. As He reached the fortieth day without food, His body was likely struggling, and His stomach was growling. This is the exact moment Satan chose to take advantage of Him. Satan, also known as the devil, is the evil enemy of God, His people, and everything God has declared good. Satan works as our accuser and tempter, and commands a demonic army with the same goals.

Satan was likely hoping to lure Jesus into making a choice that would have forfeited His future ministry. Being fully God, Jesus could have easily removed him from the wilderness. Instead, Jesus took this opportunity to teach us how to combat the enemy’s tactics and defeat temptation. Jesus modeled for us how to use Scripture as our weapon, so we can experience victory over our enemy too.

**The Bible Defeats Temptation**

Read [Luke 4:1–4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk4.1-4).

God created our bodies to need food to live. Eating is a God-given desire. The devil wants to use our natural desires to his advantage. But notice how Jesus responded. He quoted a Scripture found in [Deuteronomy 8:3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Dt8.3)! He declared that His dedication to God was more important than any physical need.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think the devil waited for Jesus to become hungry before tempting Him? |

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| **QUESTION**Are you more vulnerable to temptation at certain times in your life? If so, when? |

**The Bible Defeats Selfish Desires**

Read [Luke 4:5–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk4.5-8).

Not every opportunity for promotion is from God. Jesus warned His disciples that gaining everything this world has to offer is meaningless if it cost their relationship with Him ([Mark 8:36](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mk8.36)). Yet in those moments of opportunity, we often don’t pause to consider that the enemy could be tempting us. Even Jesus—the Son of God—was tempted in this way.

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| **QUESTION**What do you see people prioritizing over their relationship with God? |

The devil tempted Jesus to trade His devotion to God for worldly power and fame. But Jesus just wasn’t interested! Once again, He focused on God’s Word to silence the devil. He promptly quoted [Deuteronomy 6:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Dt6.13). Jesus reminded the devil that the Bible is clear—only God is worthy of worship.

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| **QUESTION**In what areas of your life do you have to be the most careful not to elevate other things above God? |

**The Bible Defeats Deception**

Read [Luke 4:9–13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk4.9-13).

Finally, the devil challenged Jesus by tempting Him to prove His identity as God’s Son. Notice that the devil even twisted [Psalm 91:11–12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps91.11-12) to do it. But Jesus knew the truth. This time He quoted [Deuteronomy 6:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Dt6.16). The devil wants to challenge our identity as sons and daughters of God too. Knowing the truths found in the Bible is what will help us win against this temptation as well.

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| **QUESTION**What is the ultimate goal of temptation? Why is it important to know how Jesus dealt with temptation? |

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| **QUESTION**What impact do you think the devil wants to have on your life? |

**The Bible Defeats the Devil’s Tactics**

The devil’s lies and deceit are no match for the truth and power of God’s Word. He has no option but to exit the wilderness in defeat. However, we’re given a clue that he will not give up easily—even when he’s up against Jesus! So we can and should expect him to continually work against us as well.

Read [Ephesians 6:10–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Eph6.10-17).

The devil will continue to tempt us, trying to deceive us and shift our focus away from God. That’s why it’s so important for us to be continually on guard. [Ephesians 6:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Eph6.14) reminds us we can stand our ground against his attacks. Thankfully, God gives us a powerful arsenal of armor for protection as we engage in spiritual warfare.

God has also given us His Word as our main offensive weapon. The sword Paul refers to here is that of a Roman soldier. Unlike many of the weapons we hear about today, this weapon was used for close combat. We can expect Satan to attack us in very personal ways.

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| **QUESTION**As you reflect on the armor God has given to us, how might you use it in a spiritual battle you are facing right now? |

As any skilled soldier knows, it’s up to us to familiarize ourselves with God’s Word as a weapon. We can do this by studying the Bible and memorizing verses. Then, when the devil wants to tempt and distract us, we need to be ready to counter his efforts by speaking the Word of God aloud just as Jesus did. The devotion for Day 3 lists Bible verses to help counter some of the temptations we face.

Other believers can be an important part of our defense too. Attending a church with solid biblical teaching and studying the Bible in a trusted community help us grow in our knowledge of God’s Word too.

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| **QUESTION**What are other reasons why it’s important to discuss the Bible with other believers in a trusted community? |

**Did You Know?**

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| In the Roman army of New Testament times, armor was not provided to every soldier. Instead, many soldiers were required to provide their own armor, which they acquired in multiple ways. In wealthier families, sons were able to buy their armor. In middle-class families, armor was passed down from generation to generation. Auxiliary soldiers, lower-class soldiers who usually came from impoverished outlying regions of the empire, often used their tenure in the military to acquire freedom or citizenship. Without the means to purchase armor, these soldiers often had to acquire their armor in more dubious ways, such as by looting corpses or getting hand-me-down broken and aged armor from wealthier soldiers. |

**Reflect**

**The Bible Is My Weapon**

Jesus gave us the perfect example of overcoming temptation. He showed us that the Bible is a spiritual weapon and how to use it when tempted. While the devil’s sole desire is to steal, kill, and destroy, Jesus wants us to have a rich and satisfying life ([John 10:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn10.10)).

When we know God’s Word and understand its truth, we will stand stronger against the devil. We won’t be fooled by temptation, deception, and our own selfish desires. As you personally put the Bible to use as a weapon in your everyday life, you’ll discover the Bible can be just as relevant and powerful for you as it was for Jesus.

**Listen to God**

Let’s pause and listen to what God might want to say to us about what we’ve read and shared. Be silent for a few moments and reflect on the following questions. Respond to the one that most resonates with what God is saying to you now. Then complete the others during Day 1 of your devotion time this week.

**Personal Reflection Questions**

*Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.*

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| **QUESTION**Of the three temptations Jesus experienced (physical desire, personal status, and identity with God), which would be most tempting to you? Which would be least tempting to you? |

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| **QUESTION**What is the greatest temptation you’re facing right now? Are you using Bible verses to overcome it? |

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| **QUESTION**Have you ever believed a lie about yourself or your life? What was it? Have you thought about how the devil might be behind it? |

**Activate**

Jesus shows us that Bible verses are the perfect weapon when we face temptations. Reading, memorizing, and quoting God’s Word are vital to our defense system against the devil. Other believers can help us face and defeat temptation too.

**Challenge**

Consider inviting a trusted friend or church leader to be your accountability partner. Your partner can help keep you sharp for life’s battles ([Proverbs 27:17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Pr27.17)). Give your partner permission to check in on you and ask you tough questions ([James 5:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas5.16)), such as, “How are you managing temptations?” or “Are you making Bible reading a regular habit?” Consider quoting Bible verses as you memorize them. Allow your accountability partner to pray with you and encourage you with God’s Word.

**Prayer Requests**

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| Note any requests from the group and remember to pray for them during the week. |

Before next time, continue to learn with the personal devotions.

**What We Believe**

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| **The Bible Is Inspired**The Scriptures of the entire Bible are verbally inspired of God. Not just the ideas were inspired. Even the choice of words was inspired as the original writers were moved by God to write what He wanted them to say. Therefore, we believe that the Scriptures are:1. God’s Word and a way of revealing himself to us;
2. infallible (everything they teach is true, trustworthy, and will not fail); and
3. the divinely authoritative guide for our faith, belief, and way of living ([2 Timothy 3:15–17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti3.15-17); [1 Thessalonians 2:13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Th2.13); [2 Peter 1:21](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Pe1.21)).
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| **The Significance of This Doctrine**If we do not agree that all Scripture is given by inspiration of God ([2 Timothy 3:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti3.16)) and is therefore infallible and authoritative, we have no objective standard on which to base our lives. Instead of having a guide that is fixed and reliable, everything becomes relative and uncertain. However, since God does not change ([James 1:17](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jas1.17)), we can be certain that His truth also remains steadfast, enduring all time, generations, and cultures. |

**Learn on Your Own**

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| *Before you begin each devotion, pray and ask God to speak to you through His Word. Record your answers to the following questions in the space provided or in your personal journal.* |

**Day 1: The Bible Is My Weapon**

Read [Luke 4:1–13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk4.1-13).

Look back over Learn in Community and complete your responses to the Personal Reflection Questions. If time permits, reread the Scripture too.

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| **QUESTION**What is God saying to you about using the Bible as a weapon to overcome temptation in your life? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 2: Warfare**

Read [Ephesians 6:10–18](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Eph6.10-18).

It’s important to remember that God did not give us His armor so we could simply march in a parade. No, God has given us His armor so we’ll be fully prepared to march into battle.

He has not only given you the protection to endure the force of the enemy, but He has given you the sword of the Spirit—His Word—to push back the devil and advance His kingdom. God wants you to thrive, not just merely survive! When you wield the sword of the Spirit, you’re following the model of Jesus and using the Bible as a weapon.

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| **QUESTION**List out the pieces of armor mentioned in this passage. Which one do you need to focus on right now? |

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| **QUESTION**Do you have a friend or family member you know is discouraged? Text an encouraging Scripture to them. Remind them to keep fighting and not to give up. |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 3: Declare**

Read [Luke 4:4](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk4.4), [8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk4.8), [12](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk4.12).

Look at Jesus’ responses to Satan: *“*Jesus told him … Jesus replied … Jesus responded.”

Jesus was not silent. He didn’t just think about the Word of God. When He was attacked with temptation and deceit, He countered the devil by speaking the Word of God aloud. God has also given you His Word as a weapon. You can utilize that weapon by speaking it out over the temptation you are facing. You can declare the truth of God’s Word over the lies of the enemy. Here are some verses to use for what you might be facing:

• Fear ([Psalm 23:4–5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps23.4-5); [2 Timothy 1:7](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.2Ti1.7))

• Sickness and pain ([Psalm 103:1–3](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps103.1-3); [Isaiah 53:5](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is53.5))

• Peace over worries and anxieties ([Matthew 11:28–30](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt11.28-30); [John 14:27](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn14.27); [Philippians 4:6–8](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Php4.6-8))

• Sadness, depression, and grief ([Isaiah 40:31](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Is40.31); [Jeremiah 29:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Je29.11))

• Forgiveness and restoration of broken relationships ([Ephesians 4:31–32](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Eph4.31-32); [Colossians 3:12–15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Col3.12-15))

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| **QUESTION**Which one of these verses do you need to declare today? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 4: Beware**

Read [1 Peter 5:8–11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.1Pe5.8-11).

As a follower of Jesus, it’s important for you to identify your enemy and his tactics. Know that the purpose of the devil is to steal, kill, and destroy anything he can ([John 10:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn10.10)). You should have a heightened sense of awareness and constantly be on guard.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think the Bible compares the devil to a hungry lion? What is a lion’s motivation when it is out prowling around? |

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| **QUESTION**What can you do to stay alert and safeguard your relationship with Jesus? |

**Learn on Your Own**

**Day 5: Prepare**

Read [Psalm 119:10–16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps119.10-16).

Because you know the Bible defeats the tactics of the enemy, it’s important for you to prepare by reading and memorizing it. You need to stockpile the truth of God’s Word in your heart and mind. Then you can counter every future attack of the devil. Remember, he wants to tempt, deceive, and manipulate you.

Be proactive as you read God’s Word. You might find that what you’re reading doesn’t specifically apply to any current circumstances in your life. Remember you are storing up God’s Word for a future attack. Don’t wait until temptation and troubles come to start reading your Bible and building your faith.

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| **QUESTION**When it comes to reading your Bible, have you been proactive or reactive? |

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| **QUESTION**Challenge yourself to memorize one verse this week. Choose a verse from the list in the Day 3 devotion or consider memorizing [Psalm 119:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps119.11), [15](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps119.15), or [16](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps119.16). |

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