**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)*)*

*Let’s be honest—the Bible can feel confusing. It’s a collection of sixty-six different books written in three different languages by over forty different authors spanning multiple genres and time periods. Also, some issues in the Bible appear foreign compared to the issues we face in our world today. So, how does the Bible apply to us? In these sessions, we’ll look at what the Bible really is and how it is vital for us as we follow Jesus.*

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| **You Will Need**• Small prize for one individual winner**Getting Ready**• First time leading *Learn* for Youth? Look here for the [Facilitator Guide](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf). |

**Engage**

**Welcome**

*Take this time to welcome everyone, introduce new students, learn names, and thank everyone for coming.*

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| **QUESTION**If you could have dinner with one person from history or the present, who would it be? Why? |

**Opening Prayer**

*Prayer thoughts: Thank God for everyone in the group and for the consistency He is building as you learn from His Word together. Ask that He would help everyone to delight in Scripture and apply it to their own lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**Introduction**

Today, we’re closing out our series on how God’s Word is relevant to our lives. With Scripture, we have a very powerful weapon at our disposal! Let’s find out how we can use God’s Word as a weapon to fight against our spiritual enemy.

**Group Activity**

**Rock, Paper, Scissors**

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| ***You Will Need**** *Small prize for one individual winner*

***Getting Ready****No prep needed.* |

Let’s kick things off with some good old-fashioned Rock, Paper, Scissors! You know the drill, but just in case you need a refresher: paper covers rock, rock beats scissors, and scissors cut paper. Everyone, find a partner. If you win your first game, find another winner until only one winner is left. The winner will get a prize at the end.

• *Rock, Paper, Scissors games can go quickly. If you have a smaller group, you can make each round a best-of-three competition to extend the activity. You can also do more than one tournament if the first one goes quickly.*

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| **QUESTION**What’s your go-to option in the game: rock, paper, or scissors? |

In Rock, Paper, Scissors, the weapon you choose determines how successful you are. It’s the same in our spiritual life, too. God’s Word reminds us that a real battle is going on. The tools we use to fight determine if we’ll be successful.

For the battles we have in life, we have God’s Word to use. We’ll find out in this session how to use it as a weapon that brings us victory. Let’s watch the video.

**Watch**

**Consider What the Bible Says**

*Ensure each student has access to a Bible, preferably the same version.*

Let’s take a look at a time in the Bible when Jesus used Scripture as His weapon. Let’s see what we can learn from Him.

**We Have a Real Enemy**

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

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| **QUESTION**What details jump out at you from this story? |

You may remember back in Genesis when Adam and Eve faced temptation in the Garden of Eden. They failed to overcome the temptation of the enemy. Many years later, we find Jesus facing our spiritual enemy, the devil, in the wilderness.

It’s important to remember that we’ll all face temptations and battles in life. Fortunately, we have an example of how Jesus stood against the devil using God’s Word as a weapon.

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think the devil chose bread for Jesus’ first temptation? |

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| **QUESTION**How did Jesus respond to this? |

Turning a stone into a loaf of bread doesn’t seem like such a bad thing on its own. Yet, in that moment, Jesus knew the temptation was about more than only food.

**Did You Know?**

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| In [John 6:35](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn6.35),Jesus described himself as life-giving Bread. This analogy makes perfect sense if you understand that bread was one of the most commonly consumed foods in the Mediterranean region. It was such an important food source that in the Hebrew language, the word for bread was sometimes used as a synonym for food in general. While bread can be very useful for survival in this life, accepting the Bread of Life is required for eternal life. |
| **QUESTION**What are some temptations the devil uses in our lives that at first don’t seem to be a big deal? |

During Jesus’ time in the wilderness, He fasted from eating food for forty days. Fasting is pausing one thing you normally do, like eating meals, to focus on spiritual things instead. After fasting from food for so long, Jesus was hungry! By telling Jesus to turn the stone into bread, the devil was using a natural desire Jesus had as a source of temptation.

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| **QUESTION**Verse [1](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk4.1) of the passage we just read says Jesus had just left the Jordan River where He was recently baptized. Can you share about a time when you experienced a great victory in your walk with Jesus (at camp, on a missions trip, etc.), only to be quickly tempted by the enemy? |

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| **QUESTION**Why do you think this happens? |

**The Enemy Tempts Us to Disobey God**

While Jesus was fasting in the wilderness, the devil was determined to distract Him from His mission. The devil wants to do the exact same thing to you and me.

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| **QUESTION**What are some areas people are susceptible to temptation in our world today? How might the devil use these natural desires to tempt us to sin? |

The devil doesn’t give up easily. As we read on, we see that the devil tempted Jesus two more times in different ways.

Read [Luke 4:5–13](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Lk4.5-13).

The devil’s goal is always to steal, kill, and destroy ([John 10:10](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Jn10.10)). Knowing the devil’s tactics is important. But knowing and using Jesus’ tactics for overcoming temptation is the key in our own battles.

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| **QUESTION**Two of Jesus’ temptations began with the devil saying, “If you are the Son of God.” How could the devil tempt us by questioning our identity? |

**God’s Word Helps Us Fight Temptation**

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| **QUESTION**How did Jesus respond to each temptation? |

After every temptation, Jesus responded by quoting Scripture. He didn’t have to come up with some clever answer on His own. The right words had already been provided in God’s Word.

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| **QUESTION**What does this say about Jesus’ relationship with and understanding of Scripture? |

In the third temptation, the devil showed he is familiar with Scripture, too. However, he twisted Scripture to fit his own agenda instead of obeying it. In response, Jesus once again used the Scriptures as a weapon against the enemy.

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| **QUESTION**What’s your go-to response when you’re tempted? |

We see Jesus was tempted for forty days. That is a long time to fight against anything! Even after Jesus quoted Scriptures, the enemy kept coming back at Him.

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| **QUESTION**How does this challenge us to continue using God’s Word during temptations that seem to go on forever? |

**Reflect**

**The Bible Is My Weapon**

Every single one of us faces temptation. We might be tempted to twist natural desires into sinful ones. We might want to chase after earthly possessions and the things of this world. Or the devil might try to get us to worship something other than God. No matter how we’re tempted, Jesus has shown us how to respond by using Bible verses as a weapon. We have to hide God’s Word in our heart so we don’t sin ([Psalm 119:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ps119.11)). Jesus showed that God’s Word gives us the pathway to victory when we’re tempted.

**Listen to God**

Let’s take time to consider how we’re doing when we face temptation. These questions are meant to serve as a conversation between you and God. Sharing your answers with the group is completely voluntary.

•  *Pause for a few moments of silent reflection before asking students if they want to share.*

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| **QUESTION**In what areas of your life are you most vulnerable to temptation? |

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| **QUESTION**Have you fully embraced God’s Word as a weapon in your struggles against temptation and the enemy? If so, how? If not, why not? |

**Activate**

Just like any tool or weapon, the Bible is only effective if you use it. As we close today, ask God to help you use His Word in your own battle against temptation. In those times of temptation, the Holy Spirit can help you remember the right Scriptures you’ve learned for exactly the right moment.

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| **QUESTION**Make a battle plan for the next time you are tempted. How can you take steps now to ensure you don’t give in and sin against God? |

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| **QUESTION**What are a few Scriptures you can hide in your heart to be ready? |

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| **Salvation Opportunity***Include this if you think there may be some in the group who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus.*Thankfully, we don’t have to fight against the devil or temptation on our own. The first step in this spiritual fight is to turn your entire life over to God. If you haven’t done that, God wants you to know He loves you so much. No sin you have ever committed can cancel His love for you. All He asks today is for you to surrender your life to Him.**Is there anyone here that we can pray for who doesn’t have a relationship with Jesus or wants to renew their relationship with Him?***Take a moment to acknowledge those who respond, and thank them for their desire to make things right between themselves and God. Pray with them as you close in prayer or after the group time is over. Following group time, talk more about where they are in their walk with God and how you might be able to help.* |

**Conclusion**

You can’t avoid temptation, but you can defeat it if you fight the right way. God wants us to live in complete obedience to Him instead of giving in to the devil and his schemes. In our Bible passage today, Jesus set the example for all of us in how to combat temptation with God’s Word.

Next time, we’ll dive into God’s Word on a brand-new topic. Make sure you join us because you make our community much better!

**Prayer**

Mighty God, thank You for being strong when we are weak. We know we’re no match for temptation on our own. But You are more than capable. Help us to turn to You and Your Word when the devil tries to tempt us. In Jesus’ name we pray these things. Amen.

Don’t forget the personal devotions provided for you on your app. These allow you to have time with Jesus to learn more about what we discussed. I look forward to seeing each of you next time as we continue our journey through God’s Word.

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