***Sermon in the Son* Discussion Guide for Luke 4:1-13**

**Leaders: You will not get through all of this, so prepare by selecting the questions that you**

**believe will most help your group go deeper into the passage, Take note of the leader helps along the way**

* **OBSERVATION**
* Have someone in the group read **Luke 4:1-13**. *What are some basic observations that we can see in this passage?*
	+ Leaders, here are some possible answers but make sure the group stays on observation:
		- The Holy Spirit led Jesus into this confrontation
		- How hungry Jesus must have been going 40 days without food
		- The devil came to Jesus at the peak moment of his physical weakness
		- The number 40 occurs multiple times in the bible
			* Days Moses was on the mountain with God
			* Number of years Israel wandered in the wilderness
			* Etc
		- Etc
* The playwright Oscar Wilde once said, *‘I can resist anything except temptation’*. Let’s each
	+ Ask, *Do you view all temptation as something you can resisted and overcome?*
* Read **1 John 2:16, *“For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.”*** What are the three avenues that all temptations come to us through?
	+ Leader helps:
		- Desires of the flesh (body)
		- Desires of the eyes
		- Pride of Life
	+ How do you see these three categories in the first sin in Genesis 3?
		- Desires of the body?
		- Desires of the eye?
		- Pride of life?
	+ Let’s point out as a group how we see the three avenues of temptation in the conflict between the devil and Jesus
* **INTERPRETATION**
* The sermon pointed out that the word ***‘tempting’*** can mean 2 different things: a test that proves the quality of something, or a temptation to fall into sin. Turn to **James 1:13** and discuss through the following questions:
	+ Can God tempt anyone to fall into sin, and if the answer is no, what is God doing?
	+ Do you view trials and temptations as tests that God allows into your life, in order to prove your faith genuine?
* James also speaks directly on temptation in **James 1:14-15**, ***“But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”***
* **GOSPEL APPLICATION**
* Let’s remember the context of this passage. Notice that the Heavenly Father calls Jesus ***‘My beloved Son’*** in **Luke 3:22**, and then goes into the Genealogy of Jesus starting **Luke 3:23** only to end that list referring to Adam with the phrase, ***‘the son of God’*** **Luke 3:38**. Then the devil twice calls him the ***‘Son of God’*** (**4:3, 9**).
	+ Both the Heavenly Father and the devil (twice) refer to Jesus as God’s son and Luke refers to Adam as God’s son. *Why did Luke capture this?*
		- Leaders: Luke is about to show the superiority of Jesus, the Son of God over Adam, the son of God.
			* Adam was in a lush garden with no hardship and no hunger and fell to temptation while Jesus was in a wilderness and starving and overcame temptation.
			* Adam was with tame animals, while Jesus was with wild animals (**Mark 1:13**).
			* Adam lived in a world unbroken by sin and fell while Jesus lived in a world marred by sin
			* Jesus, the second Adam (**1 Corinthians 15:45)**
	+ What similarities do you see between the experience of Jesus here and that of the Israelites in the Exodus?
		- Both Jesus and Israel were called the firstborn son of God (Exodus 4:22)
		- Both were in the wilderness for the number 40 (days for Jesus and years for Israel)
		- God led both into the wilderness
		- Both experienced all three avenues of temptation
			* Israel
				+ The desires of the body (they complained about lack of water, about the food they used to eat in Egypt)
				+ The desires of the eyes (they fashioned an idol made of gold to worship and be with them)
				+ The pride of life (Exodus 17:7, when Israel had no water and quarreled and tested God)
			* Jesus
				+ Had not bread and was starving but remained dependent on God’s provision
				+ Was shown the shortcut to glory and stayed faithful to the will of the Father to suffer and die
				+ Was enticed to test God and make a grand entrance to Israel but He refused and walked the way of God into poverty, weakness and humility
	+ What is the significance of Jesus being our High Priest in our everyday lives?
		- Leader helps
			* He helps us in our weakness
			* He represents us to God, interceding for us as our mediator
			* If a high priest of Israel sinned, he brought guilt on the people, conversely, as Jesus was our sinless sacrifice, He makes God’s people righteous
			* He intercedes and mediates every day, without fail
	+ What is the importance of hiding the Word of God in our hearts as we endure temptation?
		- Leader helps
			* The Word of God transforms our desires
			* The Word of God transforms our minds to know and believe the truth which the devil distorts
			* The devil Word of God leads us to the Son of God
	+ What is the significance of being ***‘full of the Holy Spirit’***?
		- Leader helps
			* ***‘full’*** means to be totally immersed, through and through
			* Being full of something refers to that being the dominant force in your life, extending into all of who you are. That which fills a person, controls the person
				+ Examples

She is full of compassion

That little boy is full of himself

A Christian should be full of joy

That man is full of anger

* + - * The Spirit of God will at times lead us into times of testing, but not into times of enticement to do evil
			* We cannot stand against temptation in our own power, but by the power of God in the Holy Spirit
	+ Finally, what is one takeaway that has encouraged and strengthened you from this lesson?