

# In the Desert



# Monday

## **Prayer Leader:**

In this week's Gospel, Jesus is tempted in the desert.

In our prayers, we're going to think about what it means to be tempted and how Jesus helps us.

Being tempted means that we choose not to trust God's love and care and we do things our own way instead of God's way.

We can be tempted - like Jesus was - and He wants to help us do the right thing by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus helps us because He loves us so much!





**Prayer Leader:**

Let's hear the first part of the story:

**Reader:**

'After Jesus had been baptised by John and called 'my beloved son' by God the Father, He was led out into a wild place to be tempted by the devil.

'He fasted - which means He didn't eat any food or drink - for forty days and nights. After this, He was very hungry and the devil came to tempt Him.'



## **Prayer Leader:**

Can you imagine not eating anything for forty days?! That must have been really hard! Because even though Jesus is God, He is also completely human, so not eating would have been as hard for Him as it would be for us!

When Jesus was really hungry and tired, the devil came to tempt Him.

The devil is an enemy of God who doesn't want us to know how much God loves us and so He tempts us too - to stop trusting that God gives us everything we need.





**Prayer Leader:**

Just like Jesus fasted for forty days, God asks us to spend the forty days of Lent making space to really listen to God's voice and grow closer to Him.

How will you make space to listen to God?  
Will you set aside a certain time each day?  
Perhaps you could set an alarm to remind you?

Jesus wants to help you do this so you can know how much He loves you.

Let's pray together:

**All:**

**Jesus,**

**Help me make space to really listen to your voice this Lent, so I can know how much you love me.**

**Amen**



# Tuesday

**Prayer Leader:**

Yesterday, we heard about how Jesus was led into the desert to be tempted.

This is what happens next in the story:

**Reader:**

The devil said to Jesus, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves of bread.”

But Jesus replied, “God’s word says that people do not live just on bread, but on the words that are said to us by God.”





## **Prayer Leader:**

Jesus can do anything, so He could have turned the stones into bread when He was really hungry. Imagine that!

But here, the devil is tempting Jesus to be greedy and stop believing that God the Father would give Him everything He needed.

We can be tempted to be greedy for more things too. Have you ever been tempted to be greedy for more food, toys, money, screen time?

Jesus shows us that we don't need to be greedy, because God always gives us what we need.

The word of God in the Bible helps us to know how much God loves us!



**Prayer Leader:**

Can you think of something you are sometimes tempted to be greedy about?

Now, ask Jesus to help you to know how much God loves you and gives you everything you need, so that you don't need to be greedy.

Let's pray together:

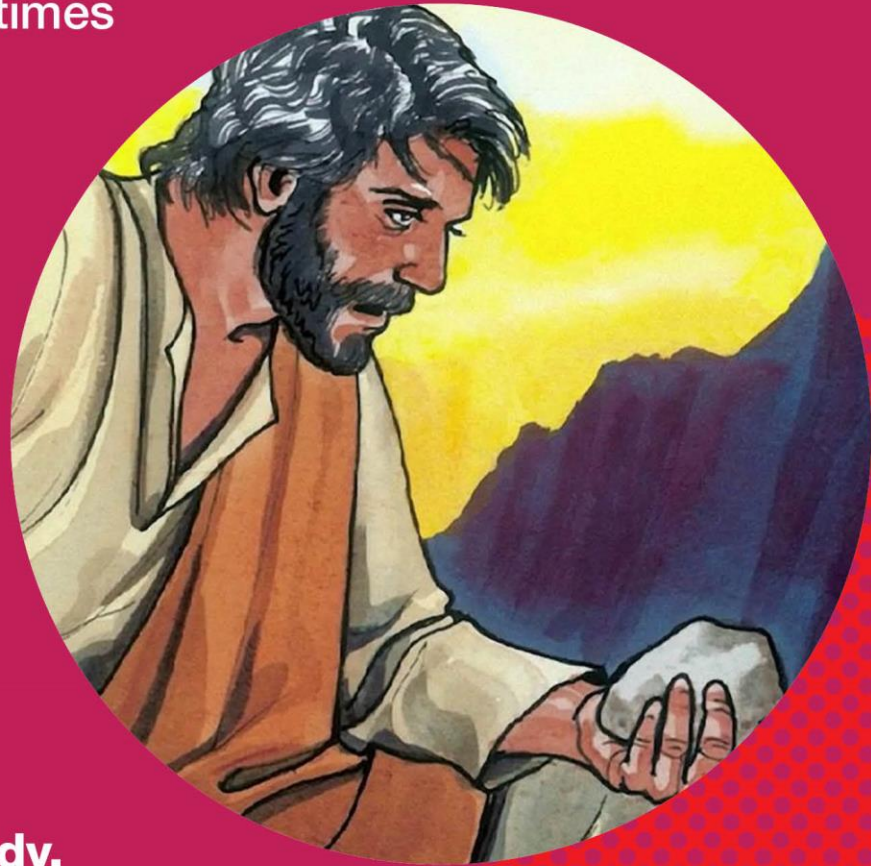
**All:**

**Jesus,**

**Thank you for your word in the Bible.**

**Thank you that you give us everything we need and we don't need to be greedy.**

**Amen**





# Wednesday

## **Prayer Leader:**

Yesterday, we heard that Jesus was tempted by the devil to stop trusting that God would give Him everything He needed.

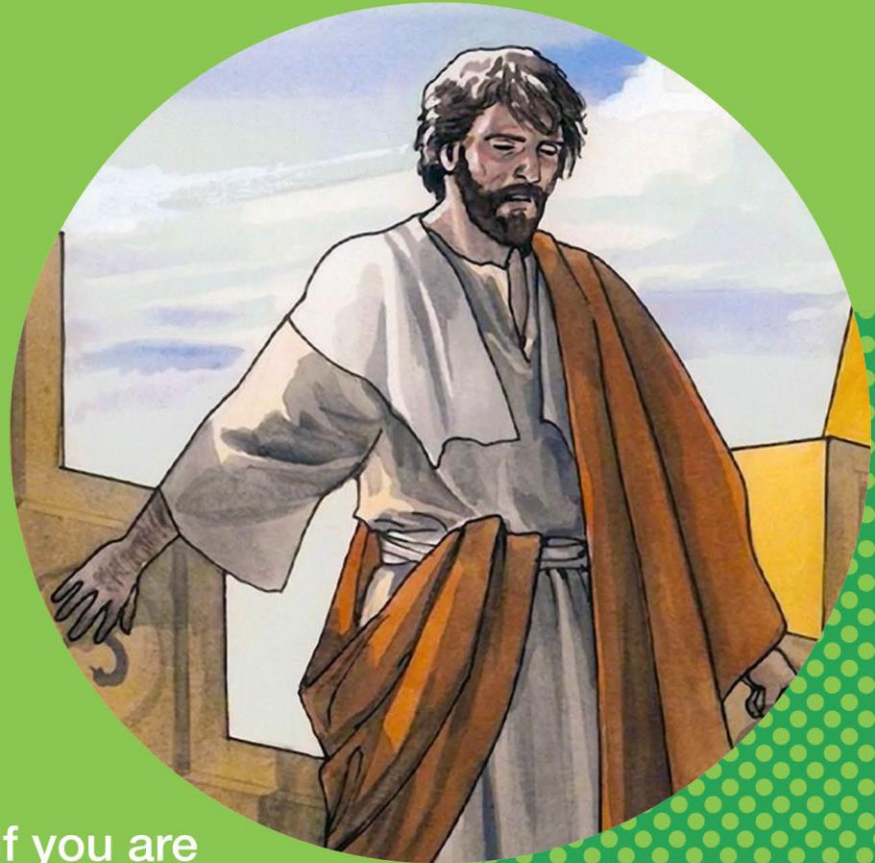
Let's read the next part of the story:

## **Reader:**

The devil took Jesus to the Holy City of Jerusalem and made Him stand at the top of the very tall temple.

The devil tempted Jesus again. He said, "If you are God's son, throw yourself all the way down to the ground because God's word says the angels will help you."

Jesus said to Him, "God's word also says that you must not test God."



**Prayer Leader:**

The devil tempted Jesus to do something really silly. He tempted Him to jump off a really tall building and said He didn't need to worry because God's angels would help Him.

We can be tempted to do silly things and break the rules and think that God will just sort it out afterwards.

Jesus reminds us that we need to keep to God's rules and not 'test' God.





**Prayer Leader:**

Can you think of a time you were tempted to break the rules?

Jesus is always with you in your heart, encouraging you to keep the rules and trust God with everything.

Let's pray together:

**All:**

**Jesus,**

**Thank you that you forgive me when I break the rules.**

**Help me to trust you with everything and trust that you love me and always help me.**

**Amen**



# Thursday

## **Prayer Leader:**

Yesterday, we heard how God's enemy tempted Jesus to break God's rules.

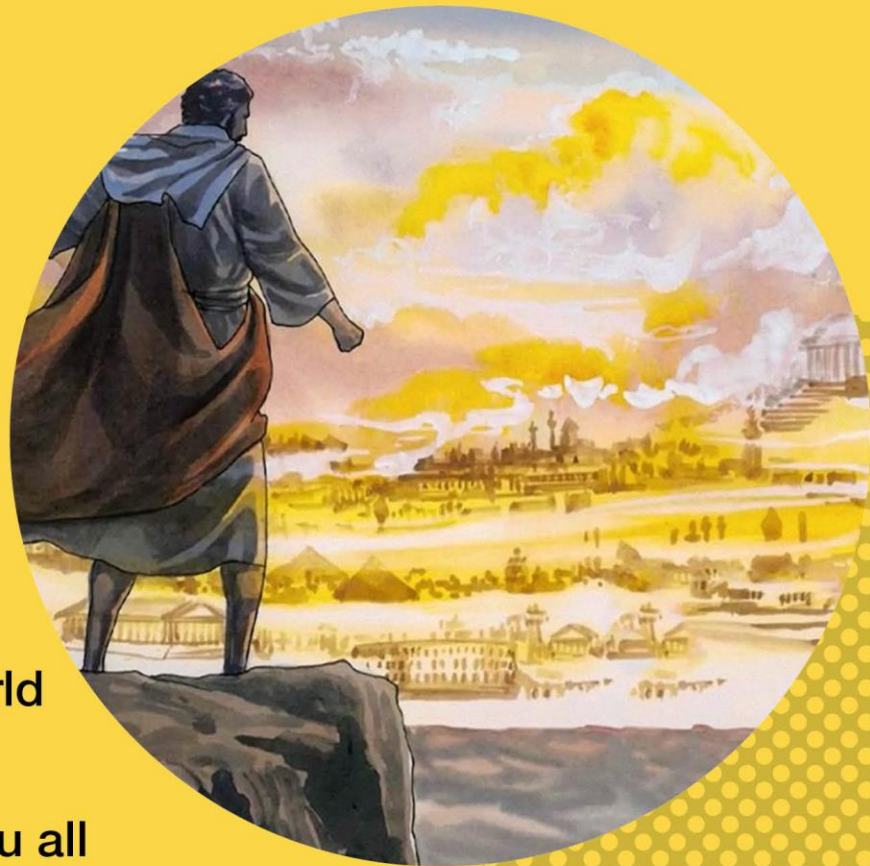
Let's see what happened next:

## **Reader:**

Jesus was at the top of a very high mountain and the devil – called Satan – showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and the power He could have.

He tempted Jesus and said, "I will give you all of these if you fall at my feet and worship me."

Jesus said in reply: "Get away from me Satan! For God's word says: "Worship the Lord your God and only serve Him."



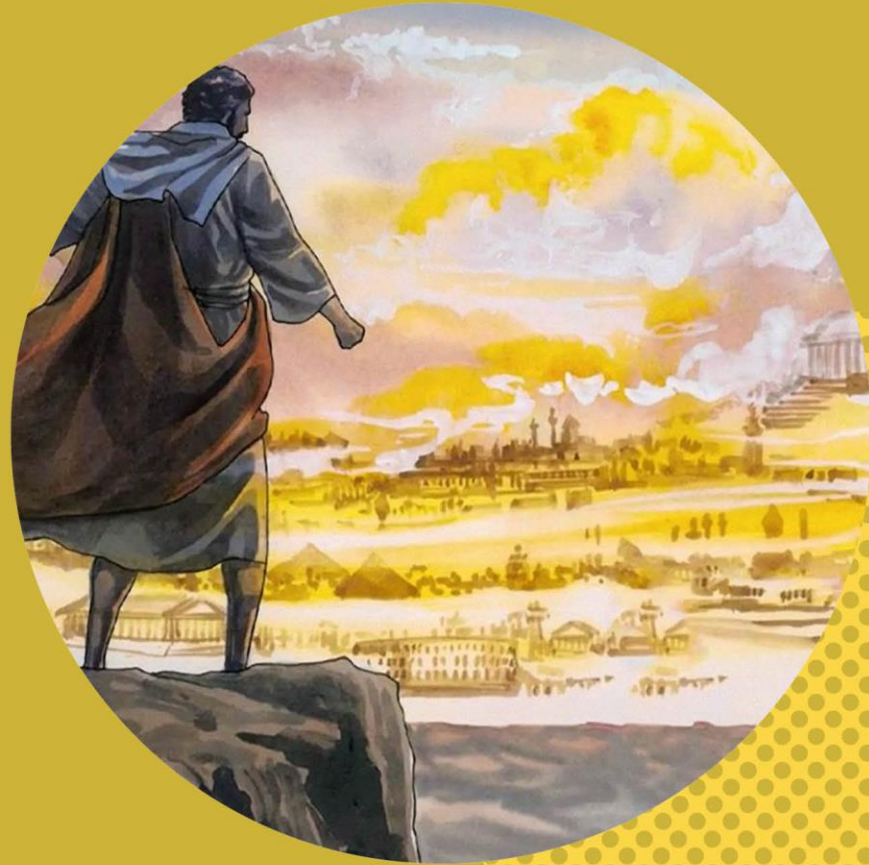


### **Prayer Leader:**

Jesus was tempted to forget that God's power is different to the power some people want in this world.

The devil tempts Jesus to believe that power is shown by being a mean ruler who can do what they want all the time.

But as we know, God's power is shown in love, forgiveness, kindness, giving our time and talents to others and putting others first.



**Prayer Leader:**

Can you think of a time when you were tempted to have power over others? Maybe you were tempted to boss them around and make them do what you want?

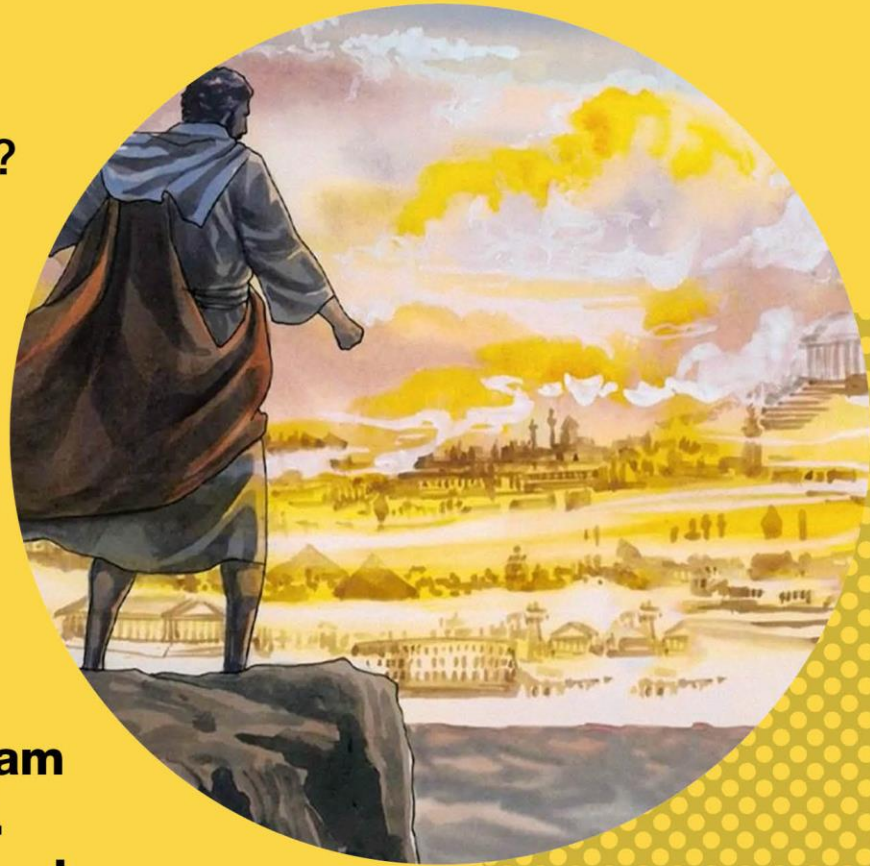
Jesus is always with you in your heart helping you treat others with kindness and love.

Let's pray together:

**All:**

**Jesus,**

**Thank you that you forgive me when I am mean to others and boss them around.  
Help me to love and treat others as you do.  
Amen**





# Friday

**Prayer Leader:**

Yesterday, we heard about Jesus' last temptation in the desert. The devil tempted Him to have power over others and not love like God does.

**Reader:**

After this, the devil left Jesus and angels appeared and looked after Him.



**Prayer Leader:**

God is so good! When the devil stopped tempting Jesus, angels came to look after Him.

Sometimes, we are tempted and it feels really hard to do the right thing. Jesus knows how that feels!

But, if we have courage and believe that God is always helping us to keep His rules, we will find it easier as time goes by. God's angels want to help us too!





**Prayer Leader:**

Can you imagine a time when you felt close to Jesus and found it easy to do the right thing?

Even if you haven't felt this before, Jesus wants you to know He is close to you right now.

This Lent, Jesus wants to help you to hear God's voice and do the right thing.

Let's finish with a final prayer:

**All:**

**Jesus,**

**Thank you for always helping me.**

**This Lent, help me to resist temptation and know how much you love me.**

**Amen**

