

Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus

Notes on Lesson Three: Son of Adam

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Luke 3: 23-38, Luke 4: 1-13

Central Message

In the last lesson, the Voice from Heaven said to Jesus, "You are my Son."²⁶ However, Jesus was also born into a human family. When Jesus was in the desert, he was hungry and tired. Satan tempted Jesus in the desert. He was trying to stop God's plan, but Satan did not win. Jesus did not "give in" to the temptations. Satan tempted him again at another time, but Jesus was stronger than Satan.

Life Application

Since Jesus was tempted in every way, just as we are, he is able to understand our weakness. "And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear."²⁷ But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."²⁸

Community-Building Activity and Introduction²⁹

Family

Preparation: Write the instructions on a board, or print the worksheet or cover page from the supplementary materials. If you use the instruction strips, copy and cut enough strips for each person. Note that there is a new way to use these strips.

Family: Jesus was born into a family. We will read the genealogy of Joseph, his legal father. A genealogy is a written record of your ancestors, that is, your family from the past.

Instructions: 1. Tell us about your family. 2. Does your family have a written genealogy? 3. Tell a story about one of your grandparents.

Teaching Notes: Instead of discussing these questions in pairs, try the following activity.

²⁶ Luke 3: 22

²⁷ One meaning of "to bear" is to carry. "Beyond what you can bear" is more than you can manage or put up with.

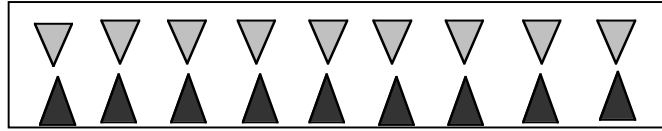
²⁸ The quote is from 1 Corinthians 10: 13b. Also see Hebrews 4:15.

²⁹ The community-building activities and the introductions are often combined in the lesson notes because sometimes the introduction is first, and sometimes the activity is first.

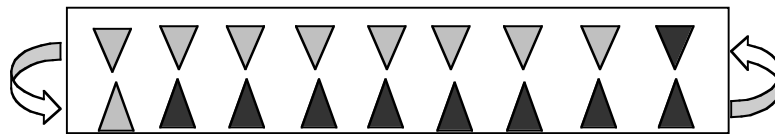
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Talking Lines



Line up the people, standing up or in chairs, facing each other. In other words, half the group is facing in one direction, and the other half of the group is facing them, one-on-one. They talk to the person they are facing until you stop them. Clap your hands or otherwise get their attention, and ask them to move to the right. The end people move to the space across from them.



They will have a new partner, and can start over or move on to a new question. Once they learn how to make the turns at the end of the row, this will be easy to set up. At first, you will have to help them to move. You can move them as many times as you want. This is a good warm-up for a whole-group discussion.

When you are finished with the community-building activity, read the introduction in the workbook together.

Alternate Community-Building Activity ***The First Humans***

Instructions: The introduction in part two is a summary of the background paper from the first lesson, “The First Humans.” You could choose to read that background paper together at the beginning of the lesson.

Lesson Notes

Part One: Family History Luke 3:23-38

Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

1. This is a short exercise with “just enough” information about the Old Testament for them to see that the Old Testament is about God’s work among one family, or tribe, that He chose in order to show the whole world about Himself. They also should know that the genealogy in Luke does not include

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all the generations, and the version in the workbook is even shorter. (You can point out the three dots ... that indicate missing text.) As they underline the names of the men indicated, you can point to the part of the Bible that tells about them. There is not time for much more, but you can point out a few other names.

2. Please note that only one verse is read out loud. I give more explanation about Jesus' "legal father" in a footnote on the cover page, so if you use that page, you can direct them to that information. Here it is:

Read Luke 1: 26-35 for an explanation. Jesus did not have an earthly father. When the angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby, she asked how it was possible since she was a virgin. (She had never had sex with a man.) The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." However, since Mary married Joseph, Joseph is Jesus' legal father.

3. What do we learn about Jesus? They can see that Jesus is from the nation of Israel, and that he is a direct descendant of the great king. They also know that Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his teaching. How far back does the genealogy go? Ask if they can tell you something about Adam.

You could add that the Jews were expecting the coming of "the Lord," as we saw in Luke 3:4, and that the "Lord" would be a descendent of David, in "David's Kingly Line." (They saw that in the Christmas account if they read the background paper.)

Note: Usually, the first part of a lesson is longer than the second, but the reverse is true in this case. Part One should be a short part of the overall lesson.

Lesson Notes

Part Two: The Temptation, Luke 4:1-13

Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

Introduction: This is a summary of the background paper from the first lesson, "The First Humans." The paper will be addressed again later in the lesson when you, or one of the groups, summarizes it.

Note: You might want to refer to the introduction of Satan in *The First Humans*. This might also be a good time to define "temptation." Here is a quick and dramatic

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way to do it. I teach women, so my examples reflect that. Make up your own examples. Write the "A" sentences in large letters on strips of paper, and pass them out to four people. Get up and stand behind each person as they read their sentence, and read the "B" sentence that goes with it. Be dramatic.

- A There is a plate of cookies on the table.
B *You really love cookies! Take all of them for yourself.*
- A Your husband said to you, "This food is terrible!"
B *You are angry! Throw the food at him.*
- A You see a beautiful ring at the store.
B *No one is looking! Take it and put it in your purse.*
- A Your child spills his milk.
B *You are angry! YELL AT YOUR CHILD!*

This is very simple and funny. Satan does not actually stand behind us and whisper in our ear. Most of the time, we are tempted by our own desires. However, Satan is powerful, and we should learn about him. (Teach the vocabulary term of "giving in" to temptations.)

1. Note that the instructions give the reason for the activity. There is a reason for each of these "look over" activities that is specific to the lesson.
2. You might want to try a dramatic reading first with leaders and any one else who is prepared. You need three readers, a narrator, Satan, and Jesus. After the dramatic reading, read the text again with participation from the students.
3. Dividing the text into sections will help them later in the lesson.
4. Remind them to ask questions that can be answered directly from the text. They can take turns asking these questions.
5. We cannot tell how Jesus was feeling unless the text gives us information. This time, it tells us that Jesus was hungry. We might also guess that he was emotionally and physically tired from being tempted, but we have no evidence for this in the text.

LINK This section has a small group activity and a large group sharing time. You will need three or four groups. You may want to use three groups of students for the three temptations plus one person (teacher, student) who is prepared to

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answer for Genesis 1-3. Each group discusses one of the temptations. Someone in each group should make some notes and prepare to share with the whole group. When you come together, ask each group in turn to share. The last person to share is the one who is prepared to answer for Genesis 1-3.

You surely have a lot to share about these temptations. I suggest instead that you listen carefully to what the students say, correct any misunderstanding with kindness, and summarize at the end. For the final leader's guide, I will add additional questions for each temptation. For now, I am adding some of my own notes. The first question they are answering is "What is Satan suggesting?" They need to observe what Satan said, and then find the suggestion *behind* it. See my examples below.

Temptation 1: Luke 4: 3-4

Satan says that if Jesus is the Son of God, he can do a miracle. He can turn a stone into bread. Satan is suggesting that maybe Jesus isn't really the Son of God. He is suggesting that Jesus should take care of his own needs and not wait for the Father to provide bread. Why should he have to suffer when he can take care of his own needs? Why should he give up so much? Satan is trying to get Jesus to doubt his calling as the Messiah, his faith in God, and his need to humble and deny himself. However, Jesus responds with faith. He knows that the Spirit led him in this wilderness, and the Father is going to provide food at the right time. He quotes from Deuteronomy 8:2-3, "Man does not live by bread alone." This is a passage about how God took care of his people during the Exodus. Jesus is dependent on God, just like everyone else. Jesus will wait for God, just like everyone else must do. He will not use his power for himself.

Deuteronomy 8:2 Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. Deuteronomy 8:3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.
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Temptation 2: Luke 4: 4-8

Satan takes Jesus to a high mountain. This is probably a vision, something that Jesus is seeing in his mind. Jesus sees all the kingdoms of the world. Satan tells him that all these kingdoms belong to him (Satan), and if Jesus will

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worship him, "It will all be yours." Satan is saying that all the kingdoms of the world belong to him, which is only partly true. He is suggesting that he has the authority to give them to Jesus, which he does not. However, the temptation for power is real. Satan is suggesting that there is an easy way to get this power. Jesus does not need to suffer in this human life; he can become King right away. Yet Jesus does not want the Kingdom for himself, but for his Father. He said, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" If Jesus had given into this temptation, he would not have died, and we would not have been brought back to God.

Temptation 3: Luke 4: 9-12

This time Satan takes Jesus to the top of the temple. Probably, this is also a vision. He begins again with, "If you are the Son of God..." Satan says he should jump off and see if God will save him. This is suggesting that he should test God to see if God is really faithful. This time, Satan uses scripture. He quotes Psalm 91: 11-12. However, he does not quote all of it, and he does not use it correctly.

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

Note that Jesus does not argue with him. He quotes Deuteronomy 6:16, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Adam and Eve's Temptation: Genesis 3: 1-13³⁰

Adam and Eve had everything they needed. God gave them only one rule to follow. They could not eat of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil or they would surely die. Satan came to Eve in the form of a serpent. He asked her if God really said that they could not eat the fruit. He wanted her to question this rule. Eve told him what God said, but it appears she added to the rule. Satan added, "You will not surely die for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." This was a lie, but Satan made it sound like God did not tell Adam and Eve the whole truth. God told them not to eat the fruit, but God did not tell them what they would gain by eating it. Therefore, Satan was suggesting, God was holding back something from them. They were tempted because they wanted to be like God. Satan was trying to get them to question God's character and doubt God's goodness. It worked.

Eve listened to Satan. She talked with Satan, and listened some more. Eve ate

³⁰ This answer assumes that the class now has a basic understanding of Genesis 1-3.

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the fruit and gave some to Adam who also ate it. They hid from God. Their relationship with God was broken. Only the perfect man, Jesus, can change this.

6. Since you have already had small groups, you could answer these next two questions as a whole class. What could Satan do to Jesus? Satan could only make suggestions and tempt Jesus. He could not do any thing else.
7. We learn that Jesus was a real man with a family. He felt what any other human would feel; he was hungry. Yet he was powerful and good. He did not give in to Satan's temptations. He did not sin.

LIVE Look over the questions and choose one that fits your group, or ask a few people to answer each question. You could do these in a large group or a small group with a leader. Rather than answers, I will help you decide which question to use:

1. Students like to "answer for God." Notice the wording, "Would you let..." Wait for their answers to check their understand, for indeed God created Satan and has power over Satan. This question will bring out other questions about God, Satan, and evil.
2. All people can understand temptation. It is good for them to acknowledge that they themselves are tempted and they do not always have the power to say, "no." This will help them understand that they are sinners in need of God's forgiveness. You could point out that the temptation is not sin, but what you think and do about it can be.
3. This is a good introduction to the background paper. It can be answered quickly, so it is good to do discuss one of the above questions and this one.

Be sure to finish by reading the "Consider" section or summarizing the central message. You may want to read the "Final Word" at some time in the lesson to describe who Satan is.

Background Paper "God's Laws"

See the introduction to this in the LIVE section. This paper is a simple summary of C.S. Lewis' explanation of the natural law and the moral law, and also the Ten Commandments.

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Workbook One: Exploring the Identity of Jesus

Son of Adam

In the last lesson, we read that Jesus was born. God spoke about Jesus through angels and prophets. God spoke directly to Jesus as a Voice from Heaven. What was His message?

In this lesson, we find out that Jesus was born into a family. We will read the genealogy of Joseph, his legal father.¹ A genealogy is a written record of your ancestors, that is, your family from the past. Joseph's genealogy goes all the way back to Adam, the first man. We will compare the words and actions of Jesus with this first man.

Community Time



Your Family

Tell us about your family.

Does your family have a written genealogy?

Tell a story about one of your grandparents.

¹ Read Luke 1: 26-35 for an explanation. Jesus did not have an earthly father. When the angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby, she asked how it was possible since she was a virgin. (She had never had sex with a man.) The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." However, since Mary married Joseph, Joseph is Jesus' legal father.

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