

WEEK ONE
DEVOTIONAL

Temptation of Christ

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Lent traditionally marks a season that begins with a focus on the temptation of Jesus. Of the three synoptic accounts, the gospel of Luke provides the most detail. Particularly, Luke emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit at every stage of this event.

Luke 3:22

the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus at His baptism.

Luke 4:1,

Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, is then led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted or tested.

Luke 4:14,

having been tested, Jesus returns in the power of the Spirit.

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As far as Luke was concerned, none of this was accidental or a result of the enemy's doing. Rather, every step, including the temptation and testing, was part of the Holy Spirit inspired plan of God for Jesus.

If so, what was the purpose?
Why did Jesus need to be tempted or tested?

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One possibility is that, just as with His baptism (Matthew 3:15), Jesus went through testing to fully identify with our struggle against sin.

At the heart of our never-ending struggle against sin lies a crucial question - to whom will we ultimately submit? Throughout His testing, Jesus constantly turned to Scripture demonstrating full submission to God's will – choosing obedience over saving himself, comfort or personal gain.

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The devil's invitation to Jesus was for Him to do something for Himself - whether for physical needs, personal glory, or a sense of security in God.

Yet, with each temptation, Jesus refused to put his own needs or fears above God's will as revealed in Scripture. This was not the only time Jesus was tempted. Luke 4:13 tells us that the devil will test Jesus again when the opportunity comes.

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We, too, are no strangers to temptation. When tested, we can see it as an opportunity to submit to God's will, above every other legitimate or illegitimate claim.

The test is not about which claim is justified, but about our willingness to put God above all else in life. Knowing myself, I realize that victory in this battle is only possible through the transformation the Holy Spirit brings to my life.

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Reflection Questions

- What temptations or testings are you facing presently?
- What choices do these issues ultimately boil down to?
- What are you asking the Holy Spirit to help you with in your testing?

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Prayer

Lord, help me pray “not my will but Thine be done.” In my moments of weakness and stumbling, Spirit grant me grace. Be my light and my guide. Amen.

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FAITH IN ACTION

In this season of prayer, fasting, and sacrificial giving, our 'Faith in Action' series highlights key Diocesan ministries where you can make an impact.

This week, we focus on missions in our deaneries.

The Diocese of Singapore oversees mission work in seven countries beyond Singapore: Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. This week, we highlight our work in the deaneries of Cambodia, Nepal and Vietnam.

We invite you to consider how you can pray and support those who go, serve, and share the Gospel.

For more information,
please email missions@anglican.org.sg



Deanery of Cambodia

Over the past few years, several dormitory students were baptized and confirmed after attending regular bible study sessions and church services.

The church has plans to start a new dorm near the universities as the church reaches out to tertiary undergrads, especially male ones (which is lacking now) with a hope to develop future leaders from amongst them.



Let us pray for

- The appointment of suitable new leader(s) who play a crucial role in proselytizing and caring for the students.
- Pagna and Sara (two newly appointed leaders of an existing dorm) that they will forge good bonds with the students and become good mentors to them; and for dorm students who have received Christ to continue growing in their faith and be equipped to build up the church.
- Those who have yet to receive Christ to do so in His time.



Deanery of Nepal Let us pray for

- New leadership under Associate Dean Revd Prem and Dean of Nepal.
- Building of a self - sustaining Diocese, Theological College and Seminary.
- Ministries and church planting efforts among marginalized people groups.
- Training and disciplining of master harvesters to become future leaders.



- Peace and harmony between religious leaders and among politicians.
- Goals and objectives of Nepal Anglican Society to be met.
- Purchasing process of a piece of property for the future of the Cathedral of Diocese of Nepal.



Deanery of Vietnam

One key initiative is the establishment of a study center for the Anglican Centre for Theological Studies (ACTS) in Ho Chi Minh City. Pray for God's wisdom and provision to bring this vision to life.

Our hope is that this center will support church planting efforts across Vietnam, particularly in the country's rapidly growing cities.

As Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)



Let us pray for

- Development of strong leadership within the Deanery.
- God's wisdom and provision to establish a study center for the Anglican Centre for Theological Studies (ACTS) in Ho Chi Minh City.
- God's provision upon the study center as they support church planting efforts across Vietnam, particularly in the country's rapidly growing cities.

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Notes