



Messy Church

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## Be a part of St John's Messy Church at home today

Activities for today: Lent Game

Worksheets

### Worship

Bible reading: Luke 4 v 1-13

Jesus returned from the Jordan full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert, <sup>2</sup> where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.

<sup>3</sup> The Devil said to him, "If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread."

<sup>4</sup> But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Human beings cannot live on bread alone.'"

<sup>5</sup> Then the Devil took him up and showed him in a second all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> "I will give you all this power and all this wealth," the Devil told him. "It has all been handed over to me, and I can give it to anyone I choose. <sup>7</sup> All this will be yours, then, if you worship me."

<sup>8</sup> Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'"

<sup>9</sup> Then the Devil took him to Jerusalem and set him on the highest point of the Temple, and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here.

<sup>10</sup> For the scripture says, 'God will order his angels to take good care of you.'

<sup>11</sup> It also says, 'They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'"

<sup>12</sup> But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>13</sup> When the Devil finished tempting Jesus in every way, he left him for a while.

Christians are beginning their journey to Easter with the season of Lent, the 40 day period before Easter Sunday, (excluding Sundays). The word Lent comes

from an old English term for the "lengthening" of days, which is what happens in Springtime.

The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday ashes are placed on the forehead in the sign of the cross to remind us of Christ's death, of the sorrow we should feel for our sins, We should repent, that is, say sorry for our sins and turn to God. Traditionally, the ashes are obtained from burned palm branches from the Palm Sunday of the previous year.

In the 40 days of Lent we think about Jesus who was tempted in the desert for 40 days and nights.

After Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit led him into the wilderness and for forty days he was tempted by the devil. During those forty days, he ate nothing. As you can imagine, he was very hungry. That's when the devil showed up, picked up a stone, and said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

Jesus was hungry, so it was very tempting, but he answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

Next, he led Jesus up onto a high place and showed him all of the kingdoms of the world. He said to Jesus, "All of these kingdoms belong to me, but I will give them to you if you will bow down and worship me."

Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

The devil still didn't give up. He took Jesus to Jerusalem, to the very highest point on the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! The Scriptures say, 'He will send his angels to protect you; they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

We know that Jesus could heal and perform miracles so he could have done any of these things. But these were temptations, to do any of them would have been an abuse of his power. He would be acting for selfish reasons.

When Jesus was tempted, he relied on Scripture, God's word. We know that we too are all tempted. We say the words in the Lord's prayer : lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil

In the Good news Bible this reads as: Do not bring us to the time of hard testing but keep us safe from the evil one.

So we can be tempted to do something wrong or we can be tested by situations.

We can find ourselves responding in the wrong way but God provides a way out so that we can resist it. God has given us his Word, the Bible, so that, just as Jesus did, we can depend on what it says to avoid temptations/ testings. But we do need to be familiar with the Bible if we are going to be able to use it in this way.

So Lent is a special time of reflecting on our lives and our relationship with God.

In prayer and in other ways we reflect upon the importance of repenting of our sins. We think about our salvation from sin made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Many people give up something they enjoy doing or eating during Lent as a reminder of how Jesus gave up his life for them.

**A question.** Is Lent a good time to increase your reading of the Bible?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father we have learnt how you did not give in to temptation. Help us to know how to do the right thing when we are tempted, strengthened by your presence with us. During this time of Lent help us to reflect on your life, death and resurrection, a journey you went through to be our Saviour.  
Amen

**Finish with the Messy Grace:**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore,

**Amen!**

