



## The Words of Jesus Series

# Ministry Begins

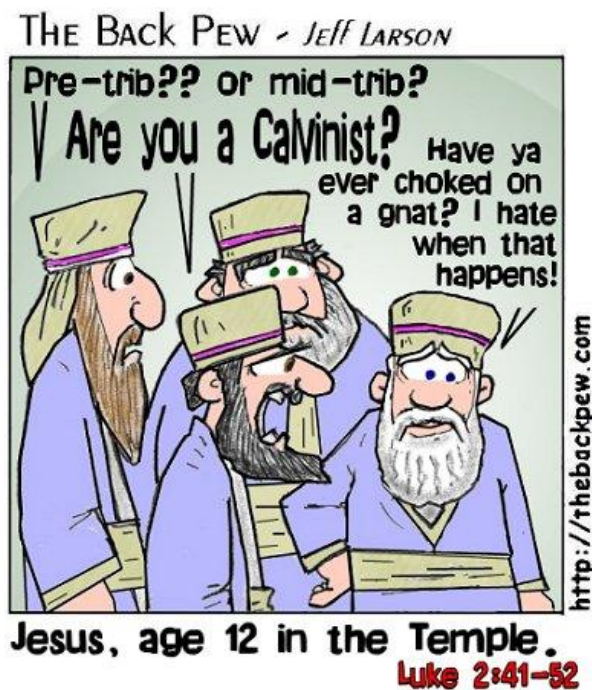
## His Baptism and Temptation in the Wilderness

**Course Text:** Luke Chapters 2-4, Matthew Chapters 3 & 4, Mark Chapter 1

### Lesson Topic

- 1 **Temple Teachers are Taught**  
(Luke 2:48-51)
- 2 **Jesus is Baptized**  
(Luke 3:21-23)
- 3 **Temptation in the Wilderness**  
(Luke 4:1-13)

In this course we will read about how Jesus began His ministry at an early age but delayed it in obedience to His earthly parents. We will read about His baptism by John the Baptist and His temptation in the wilderness. Feel free to discuss any and all scriptures with the class. We recommend that you read the course text chapters in preparation for the lessons to get the context of the specific passages studied in detail.



### **Suggested methodology for each lesson:**

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought" or just start the next chapter. Of course, you can always use the standard questions, "What would you like to remember from this lesson?" or "What did you learn from this lesson that you did not know before?"

Lesson 1 is a little shorter to allow for more time to establish norms and expectations.

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## Lesson 1 - Temple Teachers are Taught (Luke 2:48-51)

In Jewish life at the time of Christ a Jewish boy was expected to begin his life's work at 12 or 13 years old. Please read the story of Jesus in the temple in Luke 2:41-52 and answer the following questions:

[A1] What feast were they celebrating? \_\_\_\_\_

[A2] How old was Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

[A3] What did the temple teachers think of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

[A4] In Luke 2:48-51 Jesus says something His earthly parents do not understand. How would you explain to Mary & Joseph what Jesus said to them in verse 49?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_

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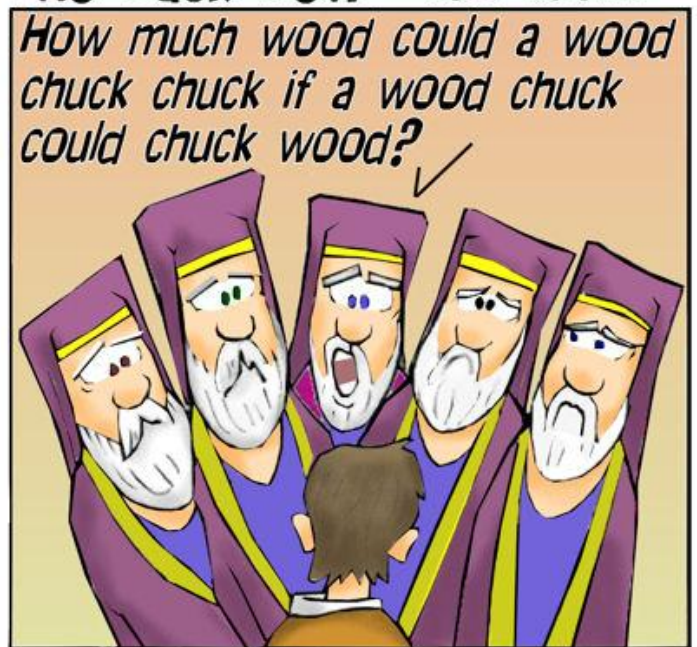
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### The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



When 'Jerry the Priest' finally spoke it became obvious young Jesus had answered ALL real questions. **Luke 2:41-52**

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 1 - Temple Teachers are Taught**

[A1] What feast were they celebrating? Passover Lk 2:41

[A2] How old was Jesus? Twelve Lk 2:42

[A3] What did the temple teachers think of Jesus?  
His knowledge amazed them. Lk 2:47

[A4] **Who is the Teacher?** Jesus said, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" Looking back on it, we can see that Jesus was simply beginning to carry out His divine purpose. We can see that He was born to die on the cross and take away the sins of the world. We could say those things to His earthly parents, but without the New Testament (which was not written yet) to help us, how could we make them understand?

**For further thought:**

(a5) What do you think Jesus was saying to the men in the temple?

(a6) Did Jesus know who He was when he was just twelve years old? Did he know when He was an infant?

(a7) Several hundred years after the time of Jesus' earthly ministry, people wrote fictional stories about the boyhood of Jesus like the so-called Gospel of Thomas. What do you think He was like as a boy? Why do you think that?

(a8) Mary and Joseph did not seem to understand God's plan for Jesus. How can we listen more carefully to God, so we do not miss something He is saying to us?

(a9) Do we dismiss what younger people and children say simply because of their youth without looking for and expecting to find any truth in it? How do you feel when others are dismissive of what you say?

**Lesson 2 - Jesus is Baptized**  
(Luke 3:21-23)

About six months before Jesus began His ministry, John the Baptist began preaching about the coming of the Kingdom of God. He told his many followers that it would be soon. When his disciples said that they had decided to become obedient to God, John would baptize them. Please read about the Baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3:13-17.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



As Jesus was baptized Calvin Carp watched on. The next time Cal would see Jesus was when Jesus fed 5,000 with a few loaves of bread, Calvin and a couple of his buddies.

[B1] Why did Jesus say John should baptize Him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[B2] Where did Jesus come from? \_\_\_\_\_

Please read about the Baptism of Jesus in Luke 3:21-23.

[B3] What title did a Voice from heaven call Him? \_\_\_\_\_

[B4] How old was Jesus when He was baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

[B5] What form did the Spirit take that came down to Him? \_\_\_\_\_

[B6] Please compare Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-23, and John 1:28-34. What is the same about these 4 passages and what is different? What does this mean? Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 2 - Jesus is Baptized**

[B1] Why did Jesus say John should baptize Him? To fulfill righteousness Mt 3:15

[B1] Where did Jesus come from? Galilee Mt 3:13

[B3] What title did a Voice from heaven give Him? My Beloved Son Mt 3:17; Mk 1:11; Lk 3:22

[B4] How old was Jesus when He was baptized? Approximately 30 years old Lk 3:23

[B5] What form did the Spirit take that came down to Him?

A dove Mt 3:16; Mk 1:10; Lk 3:22; Jn 1:32.

[B6] **Different But Still True:** They include different details based on the point of view of the witnesses, but they do not contradict.

<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>John</b>
Jesus from Galilee	From Nazareth in Galilee		
Jordan River	Jordan River	Jordan (v. 3:3)	Jordan
Came to be baptized by John	Was baptized by John	Probably baptized by John (v. 3:2-3)	Baptized by John
Has conversation with John			John talks to his disciples about Him
Spirit of God as a dove lighted on Him	Spirit of God like a dove descended upon Him	Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove	John says he saw the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him
voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."	voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."	voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."i	John the Baptist calls him Lamb of God and more

It means that each gospel is a unique perspective on the ministry of Jesus Christ. The witnesses all testify to the same thing, but each one has their own way of saying it, and different things that are mentioned and emphasized.

**For further thought:**

(b7) Can you think of other places in the Scriptures besides the baptism of Jesus where the Father, Son and Holy Spirit all appear together at the same time?

(b8) Does it bother you that in Matthew the voice from heaven says "This is" but in Mark and Luke the voice says, "You"? Why or why not?

(b9) In Luke 3:23-37 after His baptism it gives the genealogy of Jesus. What do you know about your ancestors? Why does the ancestry of Jesus Christ matter?

**Lesson 3 - Temptation in the Wilderness**

(Luke 4:1-13) Immediately after He was baptized, Jesus went into the wilderness to fast and pray. At the end of His time there Satan tempted Him.

Please read about Jesus' temptation in the wilderness in Luke 4:1-13

[C1] Who ministered to Jesus after His temptation?

\_\_\_\_\_

[C2] After not eating for forty days how did Jesus feel?

\_\_\_\_\_

[C3] Jesus began all of His answers to Satan in a similar way. How?

\_\_\_\_\_



[C4] Many have made this comparison between Genesis 3:6 when Eve is tempted by Satan and the list in 1st John 2:16. Read these two scriptures and see if you agree. Satan uses the same three things to tempt Jesus Christ. Sort the temptations of Satan in Luke Chapter 4 into these three categories:

<b>Temptation in 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:16</b>	<b>Temptation Genesis 3:6</b>	<b>Temptation in Luke 4</b>
Lust of the Flesh	Good for food	
Lust of the Eyes	Delight to the eyes	
Pride of Life	Desirable to make one wise	

(C5) In Luke 4:10-11 (and Matt 4:6), Satan quotes Psalm 91:11-12. Please read Psalm 91. Were Satan's quotes a reasonable interpretation of Psalm 91? Why?

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 3 - Temptation in the Wilderness**

[C1] Who ministered to Jesus after His temptation? Angels Mt 4:11, Mk 1:13 , Lk 4:13

[C2] After not eating for forty days how did Jesus feel? Hungry Mt 4:2, Lk 4:2

[C3] Jesus began all of His answers to Satan in a similar way. How?  
He quoted Old Testament scriptures; "It is written," or "It is said." Deut 6:13, 6:16, 8:3

[C4] Sort the temptations of Satan in Luke 4 into these three categories:

Temptation in 1 <sup>st</sup> John 2:16	Temptation in Genesis 3:6	Temptation in Luke 4
Lust of the Flesh	Good for food	Satisfy your hunger Lk 4:3, Mt 4:3
Lust of the Eyes	Delight to the eyes	Every glorious kingdom can be yours. Lk 4:5-7, Mt 4:8-9
Pride of Life	Desirable to make one wise	You are indestructible Lk 4:9-11, Mt 4:5-6

The lesson for us to learn from this is that Jesus answered temptation with Scripture. We should do the same.

[C5] **Quoting in Context:** It is true that Psalm 91 is God's word, but Satan's quote is a piece taken out of the middle of a passage. The context must be considered. Sometimes you can quote just a verse and it is fine, but sometimes the context changes everything. It is like someone quoted Psalm 14:1 "There is no God" and claimed the Bible teaches there is no God. The quote in context says, "The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.' They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." In context, it means the opposite of what it does out of context. I do not think Satan's interpretation of Psalm 91 is reasonable because of what it says in verse 14, "Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him." How is jumping off buildings showing a loving heart towards God? Answer: It is not. The Psalm is talking about protection from dangers that assail us from the outside, not self-destructive behavior.

**For further thought:**

- (c6) How do you respond when people quote scripture out of context twisting its meaning? Do you every use Scripture out of context? How do you know?
- (c7) What helps you to overcome temptation. How do you escape when Satan starts tempting you in all three ways at the same time?
- (c8) What is the longest you have ever gone without food? Why? What effect did hunger have on you?
- (c9) How do your temptations compare with the ones Jesus endured?
- (c10) What did you learn in this course that you would most like to remember.
- (c11) If someone asked you what this course was about what would you tell them.
- (c12) Is there a verse and passage covered in this course that you would recommend be memorized.