

# Year A - First Sunday of Lent

## Matthew 4:1-11

*Jesus fasted for forty days and nights and was tempted.*



The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert,  
so that the devil could test him.  
After Jesus went without eating for forty days and nights,  
he was very hungry.  
Then the devil came to him and said,  
"If you are God's Son,  
tell these stones to turn into bread."  
Jesus answered,  
"The Scriptures say: 'No one can live only on food.  
People need every word that God has spoken.'"  
Next, the devil took Jesus to the holy city  
and had him stand on the highest part of the temple.  
The devil said, "If you are God's Son, jump off.  
The Scriptures say: 'God will give his angels  
orders about you.  
They will catch you in their arms,  
and you will not hurt your feet on the stones.'"  
Jesus answered, "The Scriptures also say,  
'Don't try to test the Lord your God!'"  
Finally, the devil took Jesus up on a very high mountain  
and showed him all the  
kingdoms on earth and their power.  
The devil said to him, "I will give all this to you,  
if you will bow down and worship me."  
Jesus answered, "Go away, Satan!  
The Scriptures say: 'Worship the Lord your God  
and serve only him.'"  
Then the devil left Jesus,  
and angels came to help him.



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Jesus was tested

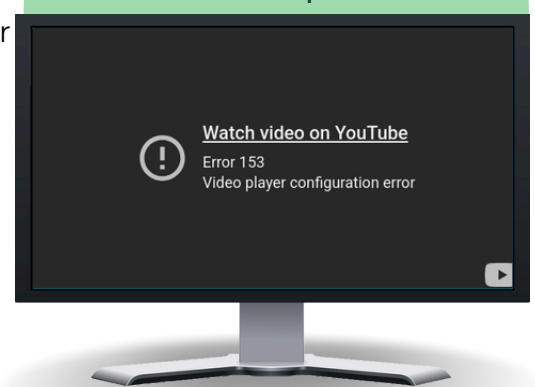


**Introduction** Jesus was tested and tempted, so he was ready. Who has ever had to do a test before? A maths test or a reading test? Why do we have to do tests? Part of it is to check what you have learnt and partly to make sure you are ready to learn what comes next.

### Message

- Share an example from your life of a test you had to sit to make sure you were ready. For example: Before I could drive a car, I had to pass a driving test. This was to make sure that I knew how to drive a car and be safe on the roads. Before I was allowed to drive by myself I had to pass this test.
- The temptations Jesus faced in the desert were a kind of test. Jesus was capable of doing great and amazing things, it could have been easy for him to use those powers for himself, so he was tested to find out would he serve himself or would he serve God.
- For the 40 days he was in the desert Jesus was tested and prepared for what would come next, when he would begin traveling across the country performing miracles, healing people and telling everyone about God.
- Wednesday last week was start of Lent - 40 days until Easter. We don't go into the desert like Jesus did but there are something we can do to help us get ready for Easter, like Jesus got ready for what came next
- To help get ready some people choose to give something up for Lent, like chocolates or lollies or video games.
- Some people choose to take something up like, serving the poor or helping others in a special way or raising money for charity.
- How will you 'get ready' for Easter during Lent this year?

Saddleback kids have a video sharing this Gospel story search youtube for 'Saddleback Kids: Temptation of Jesus'



### Discussion Questions

- What do you know about Lent already?
- What do you think you can do for Lent?
- Why do you think we need to 'get ready' for Easter?