

Children and family talk for 6th March 2022

Good morning, everyone!

Have you ever been in a desert? I haven't but I can imagine it's a very dry and mostly empty place. I understand it can get very hot in the daytime, but can also get very cold at night – a place of extremes. Not much can grow there because of the heat and lack of water, and not much lives there either. We are told in our reading today that Jesus went there straight after his baptism in the Jordan river.

Let's read our bible verses together, from

Luke 4 verses 1-13.

Jesus, led by the Spirit, went into the wilderness for 40 days without food.

While he was there, the devil tried to tempt him to do wrong.

'Turn these stones into bread,' the devil teased.

'No,' said Jesus, 'I don't need just bread to survive.'

The devil took Jesus up to a high place.

'I will give you all this, if you worship me.'

'No,' said Jesus, 'God's word says we should only worship him.'

Finally, the devil took Jesus to the top of the Temple.

'Throw yourself off,' he teased, 'the angels will save you.'

'No,' said Jesus, 'God's word says do not test him.'

So the devil gave up and left Jesus.

The devil is the one who tempts us to do wrong. Tempting means encouraging someone to do wrong in order to get something they want.

It says that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert. This is right at the start of Jesus' ministry, before Jesus started to go around making people better and talking to them about the kingdom of God.

Sometimes, when there are big things going on in our lives, we feel the need to get away from it all and we can question where God is in things that are happening to us. Jesus must have seen all the bad things going on around him constantly, with the Roman rule, where people could be treated very badly.

How would he start his work? Jesus could have waved his hand and taken control of all the kingdoms and made things right – but he didn't. Why? Because this is the devil's way –

God's way is to give us choices and help us to make the right ones, not to take away our control. And yes, we don't often get it right, and so things do go wrong, but remember when things are going wrong, that Jesus has been through much worse and is with us, holding our hand and guiding us back to the right path.

The time that we are in now is known in the church as 'Lent', it's a time before Easter when Christians can focus on God and Jesus, and the stages of Jesus life before Jesus rose from death on Easter day. Many people do this by fasting – a time of thinking of Jesus while not eating much, as Jesus did when he went into the desert. Some people give up certain things, like chocolate or biscuits or watching tv. Are you giving up anything for Lent this year? Let me know!

Let's talk to God now;

Forgive us, Lord Jesus, when we are tempted to do things our way instead of yours.

Help us to be strong and trust you.

Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here is a link for a song for Lent: _ <https://youtu.be/HDSLWL7kmDA>

Here is the link for the activity sheet from Roots. [activity-sheet-6-march-2022.pdf](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-6-march-2022.pdf)
([rootsontheweb.com](https://www.rootsontheweb.com))