

Week Two: *Evil, Part 1: The Devil Made Me Do It*
Matthew 4:1-11

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. To begin the week, read Matthew 4:1-11 several times. Verse 2 says, “After fasting forty days and forty nights,” Jesus was hungry. How much of an understatement do you think that was? Can you imagine how you would feel after fasting for even one week?
2. Do you think Jesus *wanted* something to eat? Or do you think his godliness made it so that he didn’t feel pain or hunger? Why or why not?
3. Just to be clear, who is “the tempter” that is introduced in verse 3?
4. When you feel tempted to sin, do you typically see it as caused by the devil? Or do you see it as your sinful nature coming out? Why?
5. Read 1 Peter 2:11 and see what it has to say about our sinful desires.
6. To finish your FIFTEEN for today, spend some time in prayer. Thank God for his help and power when facing temptation and ask him to help you better understand those times and situations when you are most tempted.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

7. Read Matthew 4:1-11 again. Did you catch anything new today or did anything different stick out to you? Often, reading the same verses over and over again can bring new details to light.
8. Right away in verse 3, how does the tempter, Satan, try to trick Jesus? What does he say?
9. How does Jesus respond to Satan? Does he answer Satan’s question directly?
10. What does Jesus’ response tell us about how to best fight temptation?
11. When Jesus was tempted, he used God’s Word, the Bible, to fight the temptation. Be as honest with yourself as you can. Do you go to God’s Word when you are tempted? If not, what do you resort to?

12. Did Satan give up? Or did he try again?

13. Before finishing your FIFTEEN spend some time in prayer. Also, if you haven't already, begin committing some Bible verses to memory. Arm yourself with God's Word to help you better fight temptation in the future.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

14. Read Matthew 4:1-11 again. Did you catch anything new today or did anything different stick out to you?

15. In verse 6, how does the tempter tempt Jesus? What does he quote?

16. Satan used the very Word of God to tempt Jesus. He twisted it and distorted it to try to get Jesus to fall for it. Can you think of a time when you were tempted by something that was actually good but was twisted to try and get you to fall?

17. Can you see how the better you know the Bible, the better you can fight the temptations that come your way?

18. In the following verse (verse 7), how does Jesus respond? Does he also quote the Bible?

19. After his second try, did Satan give up? Or did he try yet again?

20. To finish your FIFTEEN for today, close with prayer. Pray as you feel led.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

21. Read Matthew 4:1-11 again. Did you catch anything new today or did anything different stick out to you?

22. Do you find what Satan says in verse 9 interesting or noteworthy? Why or why not?

23. In verse 9, Satan says to Jesus, "All this I will give you if you will bow down and worship me." But all that Satan showed Jesus was *already* his. Jesus already had it. Yet again, Satan tries to twist or distort the truth.

24. What do you think of Satan knowing the Bible so well? Have you ever thought about that? Why would it be beneficial for Satan to be familiar with the Bible?

25. How does Jesus respond to Satan the third time? (verse 10)
26. After each temptation, did Jesus actually spend *any* time thinking about giving in?
27. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to reveal those evil impulses that are inside all of us. Being better aware of them is crucial in fighting them.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

28. Read Matthew 4:1-11 one last time this week. Did you catch anything new today or did anything different stick out to you?
29. Is it beneficial spending so much time reading the text each week? Why or why not?
30. Why do you think the devil finally gave up when he did?
31. If Jesus had showed more weakness when tempted by Satan, do you think Satan would have given up as quickly as he did?
32. Read Luke 22:42. Even Jesus was tempted by his own desires. Did Jesus give in to those desires?
33. Like Jesus, each one of *us* needs to be willing to resist our own desires and instead welcome the desires God has for us. Include this in your prayer time today.
34. To finish your final FIFTEEN for this week, spend some time in prayer once again. Remember to pray that God would make us more receptive to his will rather than our own desires.