Lesson 4 Luke 4

1Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

3The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” 4Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

5The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7If you worship me, it will all be yours.” 8Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

9The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. 10For it is written:

“‘He will command his angels concerning you  
    to guard you carefully;  
11they will lift you up in their hands,  
    so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

12Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

13When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

14Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. 15He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

16He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
    because he has anointed me  
    to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
    and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
19    to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

22All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?” they asked.

23Jesus said to them, “Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself!’ And you will tell me, ‘Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”

24“Truly I tell you,” he continued, “no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land.26Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”

28All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. 30But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

31Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. 32They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.

33In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, 34“Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

35“Be quiet!” Jesus said sternly. “Come out of him!” Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

36All the people were amazed and said to each other, “What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!” 37And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

38Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. 39So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

40At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. 41Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

42At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. 43But he said, “I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent.” 44And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

1. Think about what had just happened to Jesus in chapter 3, and where he was now, at the beginning of chapter 4. Describe the circumstances. (ie. a spiritual high, a new stage of life, a spiritual low when he was weak, etc.)

2. Why did Jesus go into the wilderness? Who led him there? Does this surprise you? What do you think God was accomplishing in Jesus’ life? Explain.

3. Jot down in bullet points the three temptations mentioned, and next to each one, write what its appeal was to Jesus.

4. How did Jesus answer Satan each time? What is the difference between the way Jesus used scripture and the way the devil used scripture?

5. What 2 or 3 temptations do you think the devil is most likely to throw at you and what scripture verses would help you resist those temptations? (Only share your answers with your group if you feel comfortable doing so, and remember that anything of a personal nature that’s shared in your group is to remain strictly confidential. No gossip please!)

6. In the synagogue in Nazareth, Jesus read from Isaiah 61:1-2, which was that day’s appointed reading. He told the people “today this

scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” What was Jesus saying? What was His five-fold mission, according to verses 18-19? As a Christ-follower, would you say that this is your mission too?

7. At first the people of Nazareth were amazed at Jesus’ gracious words, but then they turned on him, and actually tried to murder him. What caused this radical change in their opinion of him? (Hint: Think about who the widow of Zarephath in the region of Sidon was, and who Naaman the Syrian was.)

8. The people of Nazareth to whom Jesus had been speaking in the synagogue, ended up rejecting him and wanting to kill him, but this didn’t keep Jesus from speaking in the synagogue in the next town. Have you ever been rejected or deeply offended by people in your church? How did you respond? Did that offense turn you off to church or turn you off to God? Explain.

9. When Jesus drove evil spirits out of people in verses 33-35 and 41, what similarities do you notice?

10. We find out a lot about Jesus and his early days of ministry in this chapter. What impresses you most about Jesus and why?

11. Journal this passage SOAP style.