



PULLED

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Week Four: Identity -

Luke 4:9-14

1. Again, this week we were discussing things that pull on our lives. Desires, temptations, responsibilities, and God's calling are all things that pull on us. Now that we have studied more on this subject, what are you realizing is pulling on you in this season of your life?
2. Our focus scripture this week was **Luke 4:9-14**. ⁹ **The 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.** ¹⁰ **For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; ¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."** ¹² **Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"** ¹³ **When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. ¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.** What words or phrases stand out to you from this scripture? What might God be saying to you through this scripture?
3. Clearly one of the things Jesus is being tempted with here is to question or doubt his identity. We see this in verse nine in two specific ways: First, we see the devil directly questioning Jesus' identity the Son of God. We also see the devil using a Jewish tradition that taught that there would be a day that the Messiah would be revealed by jumping off the pinnacle of the temple and remaining unhurt. If the devil could get Jesus to question his identity it would cripple Jesus' power and potentially stop His mission from going forward. How important do you think the concept of identity is? Do you think knowing who you are in Christ should impact how you live day to day? Do you feel that you have a firm grip on your identity in Christ? Share with your community group a statement about who you believe yourself to be (be as specific as possible). If your group is well established, you might also use this opportunity to share things about each other and who you see others in the group to be.

For insights, be sure to read John 1:12, 1 Cor. 6:17, 1 Peter 2:9.

4. In the sermon Dan shared three ways that the devil often attacks our identity. The first is that he attacks our position in Christ. He tells us that we don't really know Christ and are not truly forgiven. Secondly, he attacks our sense of purpose. Part of your identity in Christ is knowing you have a mission and calling to share Christ and to live as an example in the world. The devil often attacks this by telling us we're too old or too young or too busy or that we are unequipped or unable to take up the mission of Christ. The devil also attacks our identity by causing us to question if we truly are in partnership with the Holy Spirit. He will try to convince us that we are powerless and unable to access the power of the Spirit in our lives. Tell a story of when you were attacked in one of these three ways. How did that affect your faith how did you stand during this time of temptation?

5. Jesus again responds to the temptation by quoting scripture. All three times the scripture that he quotes references the Israelites and their journey through the wilderness. In this case, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16 the full verse says: **"Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah"**. This scripture is referencing a time when the Israelites tested God. They were running low on food and water, and they were grumbling and complaining, and they refused to trust God to meet their needs. The story unfolds in Exodus 17:1- 7. The key verse is verse 7 it says: **"And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'"** Anytime we question God by not trusting that He will supply our needs or that He is with us, we are falling to this temptation to test God. Look at Matthew 28:20 and answer these questions...How do you think someone could grow to trust God more? Do you sometimes lose the awareness that God is with you? How might you live differently if you could stay consistently aware that God was with you every moment of the day? Do you think you would be less pulled by the negative things in your life the worries and temptations if you were aware that God was with you every moment of the day?