SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Luke

Chapter 4

The Spirit of the Lord Is upon Me

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 4:18

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,"

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Luke 4

Jesus faced the devil hungry and alone and won with the same Bible you hold. Then He stood up in His hometown and said the year of release had come. This week He offers you that release — and the Word to stand on when the tempter comes back.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Luke study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

It Is Written

READ · LUKE 4:1–13

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three things did the devil ask Jesus to do, and how did Jesus answer each one (4:3–12)?

REFLECT

The devil struck right after God called Jesus His beloved Son (3:22; 4:3). When have you been hit hardest right after a good spiritual moment, and what did you learn from it?

REFLECT

Jesus answered every test with "It is written" (4:4, 8, 12). Which temptation comes at you most often, and what verse could you have ready for it?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write one verse on a card for your most common temptation, and read it out loud the next time the pull comes.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 4:18)

DAY 2 OF 5

Release to the Captives

READ · LUKE 4:14–21

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Jesus read from Isaiah, and what did He say after He sat down (4:18–21)?

REFLECT

Jesus came "to proclaim release to the captives" and "to set free those who are oppressed" (4:18). What are you captive to — a habit, a memory, a resentment, a substance — that you want Him to break?

REFLECT

He said, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled" (4:21). What would change if you believed the freedom Jesus offers is for today, not someday?

RESPOND — TODAY

Tell Jesus plainly what holds you, and then tell one trusted man in your group, so you are not fighting it alone.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 4:18)

DAY 3 OF 5

Too Familiar

READ · LUKE 4:22–30

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

How did the people of Nazareth respond at first, what two stories did Jesus tell, and what did the crowd try to do to Him (4:22, 25–29)?

REFLECT

They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" (4:22) — they thought they already knew Him. Where has hearing about Jesus for years made you dull to Him?

REFLECT

They raged when Jesus said God showed mercy to a foreign widow and a Syrian leper (4:25–28). Who is the person you would least like to see God bless, and why?

RESPOND — TODAY

Pray today by name for someone you find hard to love, asking God to show that person His mercy.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 4:18)

DAY 4 OF 5

Authority

READ · LUKE 4:31–37

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What amazed the people in Capernaum, and what did Jesus say to the unclean spirit (4:32, 35–36)?

REFLECT

The demon knew exactly who Jesus was — "the Holy One of God" (4:34) — but still opposed Him. What is the difference between knowing the right things about Jesus and actually following Him?

REFLECT

One word from Jesus — "Be quiet and come out of him!" (4:35) — was enough. What area of your life do you need to put under His authority today?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one thing you have been trying to control on your own, and say out loud, "Jesus, You have authority here."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 4:18)

DAY 5 OF 5

Healed to Serve

READ · LUKE 4:38–44

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did Simon's mother-in-law do right after Jesus healed her, and what did Jesus do early the next morning (4:39, 42–43)?

REFLECT

She "immediately got up and waited on them" (4:39). How has Jesus helped you, and how could that turn into serving someone else this week?

REFLECT

After a long night of healing, Jesus went to a secluded place, and then said He must move on to other towns (4:42–43). Where do you need time alone with God, and where might He be sending you?

RESPOND — TODAY

Get up fifteen minutes early tomorrow for quiet time with God, and today do one act of service for someone in your home or unit.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 4:18)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The devil offered Jesus all the kingdoms if He would worship him — a crown without the cross (4:5–7). What shortcuts are men like us tempted to take, and what do they cost?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Jesus read good news for the poor, the captives, the blind and the oppressed (4:18). Which of those words describes you best right now, and how has Jesus met you there?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

The crowds tried to keep Jesus to themselves, but He said, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also" (4:43). Who outside this group needs to hear what we have heard?

MY PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You beat the tempter with Your Word and came to set captives free, so today I bring You what still holds me and ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · LUKE 4:18

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,"