

4. Read Deuteronomy 8:1-18. This is such a rich passage. How does it illustrate the idea from the BibleProject "The Test" video that in a test/temptation there is an opportunity and a trap?

5. Why does the fight begin with a surrender?

6. How does the fact that Jesus passed the test encourage you in the fight?

The Fight
"Surrender"
Matthew 4:1-11

The Fight

"Why do I feel so tired? Worn down? Not in body, but in mind? Why do I feel so battered and bruised? Why does every day feel like a battle just to stay faithful, to keep following Jesus? Here's an idea: maybe because it is." (John Mark Comer)

1 Timothy 1:18-19; 6:12; Ephesians 6:11-12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

If you read the account of Jesus' temptation and think, "Okay, I just have to do what Jesus did, and that's how I can fight and win the battles," but you miss the _____ reason why Jesus fought the fight and the primary reason we're told this story, you're actually misconstruing this passage and hindering your ability to fight.

The Test

The fight is also a _____.

Trials, troubles, and temptations test your _____.

In Matthew 4, Jesus endures a _____. (See Matthew 16:1; 19:3; 22:35-36)

In every temptation there's a _____.

"A test could be an opportunity or a trap. And the difference is whether the one testing you has your best interest in mind." (BibleProject, "The Test")

The parallels, design patterns, interconnected themes, Easter Eggs, hyperlinks to the Exodus account are so striking that there is no way to really understand Jesus' temptation/test without _____ that story.

- Israel's and Jesus' _____

Exodus 4: ²² Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the Lord says: Israel is my firstborn son, ²³ and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.'

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



- Out of _____ (Hosea 11:1-2; Matthew 2:14-15)
- Through the _____ (Exodus 14: Matthew 3)
- Wilderness _____ (Deuteronomy 8:2-3)

Deuteronomy 8: ² Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. ³ He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

- All of Jesus' Scripture _____ from Deuteronomy 6-8
- _____ (Exodus 34:28)
- Bread vs. the _____ of the Lord (Deuteronomy 8:3)
- Hunger/ _____ (Deuteronomy 8:3)

Why This Test?

This story shows that Jesus succeeds where all others _____, therefore Jesus can represent us (humanity) on the cross.

"Remember, a test from a good God is an opportunity. ...It's an opportunity to surrender to God's wisdom and to become more like Jesus, the one who loved us and who passed the test on our behalf." (BibleProject, "The Test")

For us, the fight begins with _____.

Resources:

- Live No Lies: Recognize and Resist the Three Enemies That Sabotage Your Peace by John Mark Comer
- "Why Does God Repeatedly Test Humans in the Bible? Will We Choose God's Wisdom or Our Own?" by the BibleProject Team
- "The Test" Study Notes ([BibleProject](#))

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What's one of the hardest tests you remember enduring in school?
3. Read Matthew 4:1-11. How might 40 days of prayer and fasting strengthen Jesus for the test and possibly weaken him?