

CHRIST'S BAPTISM, TEMPTATIONS, & MINISTRY

The Life of Christ with Saint Luke



CHRIST'S BAPTISM

Read Luke 3:21-22

Take a look at the icon of Theophany. Last year, we learned how to read all the details of the icon. What do you remember?

Today, we want to focus on one aspect in particular from Luke's Gospel in the icon - the manifestation of the Holy Trinity. We see God the Father depicted at the top, center of the icon, "...and a voice came from heaven which said, 'You

1

GOALS

What is Theophany?
How do we handle temptation? Christ is our physician.

2

AT CHURCH

Theophany is a major feast day.
We go to Confession for healing.

3

AT HOME

Discussions about temptation & ways to handle it



Theophany:
manifestation of God
~
Baptism of Christ



Temptation:
the desire to do something that will pull us away from God



Healing:
The act or process of regaining health
~
Christ is the physician of our souls & bodies

are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.’ “ We see the Holy Spirit depicted in the center of the icon as well, “And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him” - “Him” referring to Jesus.

SATAN TEMPTS JESUS

Read Luke 4:1-13

Satan was invisibly present at Christ’s baptism and he heard God the Father say that Jesus was His beloved Son. This confused the devil because he knew that Jesus was fully human, but we know Jesus is fully God *and* fully human. The devil did not know this.

While Jesus was alone in the desert praying, the devil approached Him and started to test Jesus. Hmmmm...is He REALLY the Son of God? I want to find out! The devil asks Jesus several times, “If You are the Son of God...” and then asks Jesus to do a miracle to prove that He’s the Son of God. Jesus does nothing of the sort. Instead, Jesus stays calm and humble. He responds to the devil, but in such a way that Jesus never brags or shows off what He is capable of doing.

We learn from this event, that we will be tempted after we are baptized. Jesus also shows us how to



protect ourselves from temptations: by fasting, prayer, and humility.

We fast so that we can learn self control. How many times has your mom or dad told you, “You’re

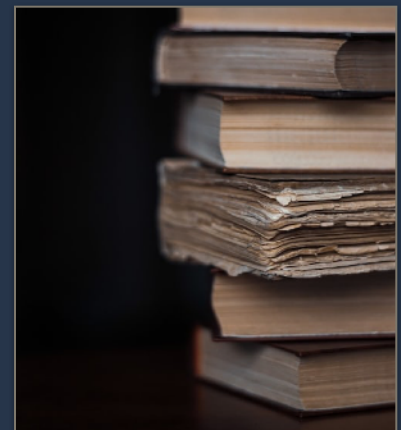
EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor
by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 88 - 114

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke
by Blessed Theophylact pages 44 - 55

God, Where is the Wound: Healing Remedies for Today’s World
by Schemanun Siluana Vlad

Search the Scriptures Live Podcast: [Temptations in the Christian Life](#)
by Dr. Jeannie Constantinou



not getting anything” when you go to the store with them? If they bought you something every time, the shopping trips would get unbearably expensive - but more importantly, you wouldn’t learn patience to save up for something you wanted or to wait for your birthday or Christmas.

We pray because we know we need God’s help in everything we do. We also thank Him for all the help He has knowingly or unknowingly done for us.

What are some ways we might be tempted?

- Asking our parents for something to eat other than what they made our family for dinner
- Wanting to get something from the store, every time we go
- To play in our room when we’ve been told to go clean it
- To not get out of bed on Sunday mornings when our parents tell us it’s time to get ready for church

How can we avoid giving into these temptations?

Well, part of it is building up strength by practice. You’ll get better and better at avoiding temptations as you get older, *if* you follow the directions of your parents, priest, and godparents.

- Try asking your parents, “Can we have pizza for dinner soon?”
- Try asking your parents, “I really want this *item*. Can you take a picture of it and put it on my birthday wishlist?”
- The next time you’re told to pick up your room, try picking up one like item at a time: I’m going to pick up all my dirty clothes first. Then I’m

going to stack my books neatly on the shelf. Next, I’m going to pick up my toys.

- On Sunday mornings, think about the joy of receiving Holy Communion, seeing your friends, and wonder what you’re going to learn next for Sunday School as you get out of bed and get dressed.

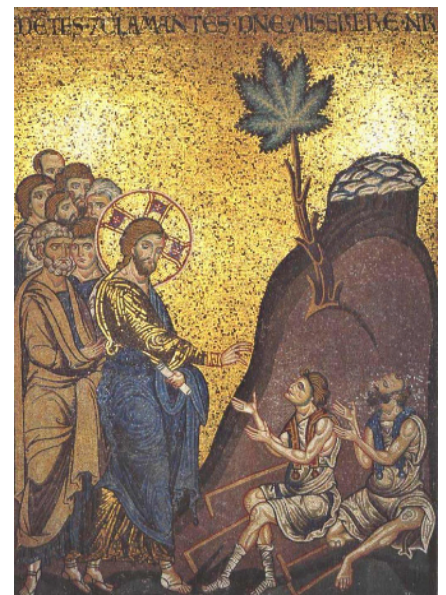
JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

Read Luke 4:40

And while the sun was setting, all who had any ailment with various diseases brought them to Him, and laying His hands upon each one of them, He was healing them.

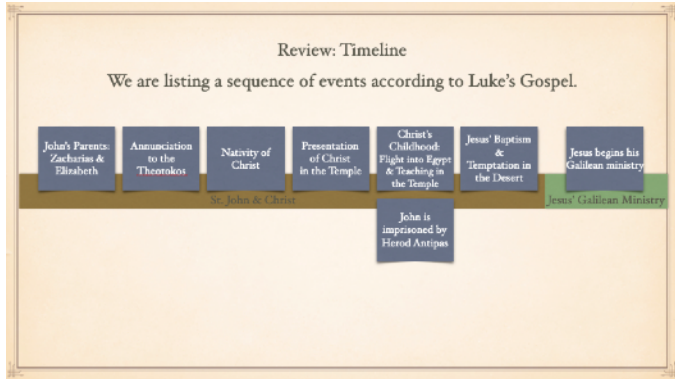
A nun named Mother Siluana explains to us that the first thing Jesus did when He began His public ministry (serving, teaching, modeling how we should live through His life) was to heal people. He healed countless people of illnesses and incurable ailments, such as blindness and paralysis. News about Jesus spread rapidly fast throughout the land. Crowds of people traveled long distances to find Him in hopes of being healed themselves or healing someone they loved.

As Orthodox Christians, we believe that the Church is a spiritual hospital and we want to be healed. We do this by going to Confession and asking God to forgive us when we sin. After we go to Confession, God has forgiven us, and it’s as though we had never done that sin - we are healed.



ACTIVITIES

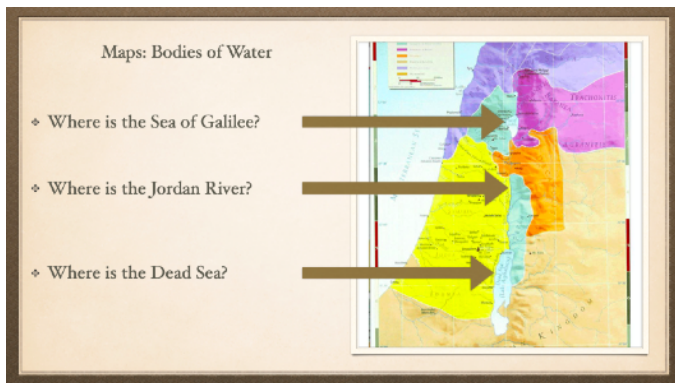
Timeline



On two post-it notes, summarize Christ's baptism and temptations. Then place them on the section labeled "St. John and Jesus."

On a third post-it notes, summarize the meaning of Christ beginning his ministry by healing people. Place this post it note on the section of the timeline labeled "Christ's Ministry in Galilee."

Map of Israel



Locate the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River (where Jesus was baptized), and the Dead Sea.

SING: O HOLY APOSTLES

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FOR PARENTS

Here is where we need to help people to not think that “the demons are now imprisoning people.” I prayed a lot about this, I said: “God, what is it with these devils that enslave us? Didn’t You already free us? And I received an answer from a story in the Paterikon: “An Elder sees a demon dragging a

Christian by a chain. And the Elder: ‘You wretched creature, this is God’s image, and he is baptized, how do you dare keep him in chains?’ And the demon replies: ‘Father, are you blind? Don’t you see that I am only dragging the chain, and he is holding on to it?’

Schemanun Siluana Vlad
God, Where is the Wound? Healing
Remedies for Today’s World

HOME ACTIVITY #8

Watch together:

- [The Icon of Theophany](#) by Trisagion Films (YouTube)



