



<sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; <sup>11</sup>they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' <sup>12</sup>Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Luke 4:9-13

## THE TEST

Jesus resists this 3<sup>rd</sup> temptation from the devil by quoting Deuteronomy 6:16 which states, "Do not test the Lord your God as you did at Massah." Read Exodus 17:1-7, to explore what happened at Massah, and then answer these questions:

### Exodus 17:1

1) What were the Israelites doing as this story is set up?

### Exodus 17:2

2) When the Israelite camp had no water what did they do? Who did they go to?

3) How does Moses respond to the people? What does he claim the people are doing? Why? How is Moses and/or God being seen by the people?

### Exodus 17:3

4) Who do the people continue to grumble against? Who are the people directing their cries towards?

5) What do the people accuse Moses of doing?

6) Is it appropriate for Moses to bear the brunt of the people's cries? Why or why not?

### Exodus 17:4

7) How does Moses deal with the people? What does he do?

8) How does Moses respond to the people? What does he claim the people are doing? Why? How is Moses and/or God being seen by the people?

### Exodus 17:5

8) What does God tell Moses? Who does he tell him to take with him? Why?

9) What is significant about the staff that is used to strike the Nile? What is proclaimed when this staff is used in performing miracles (see Exodus 7:17 for the proclamation of the staff when used on the Nile)?

### Exodus 17:6

10) What did God do? What did Moses do?

### Exodus 17:7

11) What is the name of the place where all of this takes place? How does it reflect the events that took place there?

12) What is the ultimate question of the story of Massah as portrayed in the last line of the narrative? What was being tested at Massah?

### Luke 4:9-13

13) How does the testing at Massah relate to Jesus' testing by the devil? Knowing the events of Massah, why would Jesus say, "Do not test the Lord your God" as a response to the devil?

### Application

14) Have you ever asked, "Is the Lord among us or not?" Or, have you ever asked, "Is God with me or not?" If so, what were the circumstances?

15) Is the Lord among us / with you?

*Closing Prayer:* Pray that any temptations of testing God would be overpowered by God's reassuring presence. Pray that the Lord would be with you as you prepare to enter holy week.