

# At THE MOVIES

## Life Group Leaders Guide

### Directions

This packet contains the background information, series information, and weekly curriculum you will need to lead a life group during our *At the Movies* series. Everything on this page is to help you stay connected to the series as a whole. Behind this page is the individual curriculum to help you point people to Jesus. The *Purpose* and *Move* sections of the curriculum are for the leader to read or paraphrase to the group. The *Notes and Commentary* section is for the leader to get background information and go deeper into the passages before leading the life group. The curriculum was designed with your freedom in mind. Read through the curriculum and decide what will work best for your group. SOAP the passages with the group, use only certain questions, write your own questions, or use the curriculum verbatim. As the leader, you know what will point your people to Jesus.

### Series Overview

From thrilling fight scenes that keep us on the edge of our seat to love stories that bring us to the verge of tears, movies have a universal touch that brings all of us together. At The Point, we want to harness that. We want to pair the captivating box office stories with the truth and relevance of scripture to point all people to Jesus. Enter *At the Movies*! Over the next four weeks we will be taking 4 major box office hits, utilizing their theme, and pairing them with scripture. This series will not only be entertaining and relevant but a great starting point for many people to make their way back to God. This series will coincide with some strategic outreaches to help our people invite friends, family, and neighbors to our church. So, grab some popcorn, find a comfy chair, and get ready for the show! This is going to be epic!

### Life Group Overview

During the *At the Movies* series our life group curriculum will cover stories in the bible that share the same overarching story as the movie and scripture that was mentioned from stage. Unlike previous studies, we will try our best to keep the study focused around one major story or passage. This not only will allow the story theme of the series to seep into life group but will also make SOAPing the individual passages in group easier for life groups that want to go that direction.

### Church At The Movies Series Schedule

Week	Sermon Date	Topic of sermon	Topic of life group
Week 1	7/16	<i>Rogue One</i> : The book of Esther	Ruth 1:1-18
Week 2	7/30	<i>Beauty and The Beast</i> : 1 Corinthians 13	Acts 9:10-19
Week 3	7/23	<i>The Conjuring</i> : Luke 8:26-39	Genesis 3:1-7 & Matthew 4:1-11
Week 4	8/6	<i>Hacksaw Ridge</i> : Daniel 1	Daniel 3:8-30

## The Point Church Life Group Curriculum

# At The Movies - Week 3 - Genesis 3:1-7 & Matthew 4:1-11

### Purpose of Study

As we saw from stage this week, we are at war with Satan and the demonic. The bible is clear that all Christians will face temptation from these powers and authorities whose goal is to steal, kill, and destroy the lives of believers. In this curriculum, we will look at two times in scripture where people were tempted by Satan to move away from God's will and towards sin. By seeing how Adam and Eve succumbed to temptation and then viewing how Jesus resisted temptation, we will be able to compare and contrast how the enemy attacks and then apply it to our lives.

### Flow of Study

**Optional Icebreaker:** What is one guilty pleasure that you just cannot say "no" to?

**Move #1:** Since the sermon series and life groups are covering the same topics, it might be a good idea (both for content and time) to begin the discussion with some unpacking questions from this Sunday's sermon.

1. Did anything stand out to you from the sermon this weekend?
2. What is one thing from the sermon that you want to apply this week?
3. Why do you think understanding spiritual warfare is so important for the believer?

**Move #2:** Satan's schemes have always been the same. He wants people to seek anything but God's will. In the first story for tonight we will see how Satan worked in the beginning to tempt Adam and Eve. This will help open our eyes to his techniques and begin thinking through how to resist Satan's temptations.

### Read Genesis 3:1-7 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" <sup>4</sup> "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

1. What stands out to you from this passage?
2. In verse 1 we see Satan referred to as "crafty." Does your bible use a different word in the place of "crafty?" What comes to mind when you read the description of Satan in verse 1?

3. Go to and read **Genesis 2:15-17** where God actually commands Adam about his role in the garden and what he is to touch/not touch. Now reread verse 1 where the serpent tempts Eve. Do you notice anything unique?
4. Have you see Satan use this kind of temptation in your life or in the lives of others?
5. Reread verses 4-5. What is Satan trying to convince Eve of regarding God and what He wants for her?
6. Have you see Satan use this kind of temptation in your life or in the lives of others?
7. Reread when Eve actually decides to sin (verse 6). Notice how Satan does not open her mouth and force the fruit in, instead, entices her into making a poor decision. Have you seen temptation like this in your life or the lives of others?
  - a. **James 1:13-15** would be a good secondary verse to meditate on.

**Move #3:** Now that we have seen a story describing how Satan works and we fall, let's go to a different story where the main character resists the temptations of Satan. In this passage we will see Jesus begin his Earthly ministry with a battle against the evil one. This not only gives us great insight on how to fight temptation but also foreshadows the work of Christ and how he will ultimately defeat Satan later on.

### Read Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

1. What stands out to you from these passages?
2. What is the significance of Jesus undergoing the same types of temptation, at the hands of the same tempter, that we face?
  - a. **Hebrews 4:15** could be a good secondary verse to meditate on.
3. Look at the beginning of verse 3 and verse 6. How is Satan beginning each of his temptations of Jesus?
  - a. **Note to the leader:** although the 3rd temptation of Jesus (seen in verse 8) does not say "if you are the son of God" commentators think it is implied.
4. In verses 3, 6, and implied in 8, Satan is beginning his temptation with Jesus' identity. Can you relate to this temptation? Why do you think this is a common approach for Satan?

5. In verse 3, Satan tempts Jesus to turn stones into bread. The act of turning stones into bread is not a sin and Jesus is obviously capable of doing this act (Jesus will do something very similar later on to feed the masses). Why do you think Jesus does not change the stones into bread at this time?
6. In verse 6 Satan tempts Jesus by misusing scripture. Have you ever experienced a moment like this? Do you think this still occurs today?
7. Reread verses 8-10. In Satan's final temptation he tries to offer Jesus something that Jesus is going to the cross for in a few years. In other words, Satan is offering a shortcut or easy way out. What are some ways in which you have tried to accomplish something via shortcut or the easy way?
8. In verses 8-10 Satan offers Jesus all the "kingdoms of the world in their splendor." What does this show about the power and authority of Satan that he has this to offer?
  - a. **1 John 5:19** could be used to show Satan's power.
9. Jesus remains faithful through the temptation and commands Satan to leave...and then Satan does. What is the significance of the story ending this way? How can we apply this to our lives?
  - a. **James 4:7** could be a good secondary verse to meditate on.

**Move #4:** In our last move, let's try to verbally compare and contrast the two stories we looked at tonight and then apply them to our lives.

1. Tonight we saw Satan tempt Adam and Eve and tempt Jesus. What stood out to you as differences between the two stories?
2. What were some similarities between the two stories?
3. What do you think is a take away from looking at the two passages on temptation that we studied?

**Prayer:** End your study with a time of prayer where people can share prayer requests and be prayed for before they leave. If possible, please steer some prayer towards what your group talked about during this study.

**Next Steps:** The following are things you could challenge your members to do in order to take what you studied in this curriculum farther.

## Notes and Commentary

The following are pieces of commentary, facts, and links based on the passages of this study in order. Use them to help supplement your group time or for your personal preparation.

### On the Question of "Does God lead us into temptation"

- *Does God "Lead Us Into Temptation?"* by John Piper --> <https://goo.gl/63B0F9>

### Genesis 3:1-7

- The serpent intentionally misconstrues the command of God by formulating a question designed to get the woman to express the command in her own words. The serpent then targets the penalty as Eve expressed it. It has often be noted that Eve adds that the tree was not to be touched. But the narrative does nothing with that miscue. That obvious addition does, however, alert the reader to the fact that Eve is giving her own rendition. It is then her next phrase, also a variation, that becomes crucial. She does not repeat the syntax of God's statement ("you will not surely die") but simple says "or you will die." She has not misrepresented God, but she has blurred an important nuance. There is a difference between the two, and the serpent capitalizes on the oversight by negating Eve's version rather than God's. (Walton)
- God's prohibition of the tree need not lead us to conclude that there was something wrong with what the tree gave (remember, everything was created "good"). Rather than God's putting the tree there simple to test Adam and Eve, it is more in keeping with his character to understand that the tree would have use in the future. When the time was right, the first couple would be able to eat from it...for instance, there is nothing wrong with driving, but there is something wrong with a five-year-old driving. One can compare this to the temptation of Christ, when Satan offered him all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would bow down to him. There was nothing wrong with Christi's ruling all the kingdoms of the world-it was his destiny. The temptation involved bypassing appropriate process and timing, seizing them through deviant means. (Walton)
- It is fascinating to note the strategies of the tempter. First he isolated Eve from Adam. He gave the pair no opportunity to strengthen each other in a resolve to choose the good (cf. [Heb. 10:24–25](#)). Then he cast doubt on God's motives. Did God possibly have a selfish motive for the restriction? ([Gen. 3:4](#)) Satan went on to contradict God. God had warned of death; Satan cried, "That's a lie!" Now two opposing views stood in sharp contrast, and a choice had to be made. Satan also focused Eve's attention on desirable ends, a common device of what has been called "situation ethics." Never mind the fact that the means to an end involves disobedience to God. Act only on examination of the supposed results. Satan also proposed a mixed good as the end: "You will become like Him, for your eyes will be opened—you will be able to distinguish good from evil!" (v. 5) How could becoming more like God be wrong? Finally, Satan relied on the appeal of the senses. The fruit was "lovely and fresh looking" (v. 6). How could anything that looked and smelled so pleasant be bad? Led along by the tempter, Eve made her choice. She rejected trust in God and confidence in His wisdom and, as Satan himself had before her, Eve determined to follow her own will and reject God's. Then she offered the fruit to Adam, and he too ate. (Richards)
- Demonic spirits evidently have the ability, under certain circumstances, to indwell human or animal bodies ([Luke 8:33](#)). On this occasion, Satan chose to indwell the body of a pre-curse serpent. Poole says the woman wasn't surprised at the serpent's speaking because Adam and Eve had free conversation with angelic beings that often appeared in the form of men. If this is true, it wasn't so strange to Eve that an angelic being might appear to her in the form of a beautiful pre-curse serpent. Perhaps Satan made the voice supernaturally seem to come forth from the serpent, or perhaps Satan "said" this to Eve in her thoughts. What Satan said is more important than how he said it. (Guzik)

### Matthew 4:1-11

- The word "tempted" is the verb peirazo, which can mean either "I tempt" or "I test."<sup>3</sup> A "temptation" is an enticement to get a person to go contrary to God's will, as Satan will try to do to Jesus. A "test" tries to get a person to prove himself or herself faithful to God's will, with the good intention that the person

passes the test. Scripture is clear that God never tempts anyone to do evil ([James 1:13](#)), but God does use circumstances to test a person's character or resolve with the intended purpose of promoting good ends (e.g., [Heb. 11:17](#)). In a sense, temptation and testing are flip sides of the same coin. Satan intends to get Jesus to go contrary to the Father's will, but in the middle of those circumstances, the Father uses Satan's evil intention to a good purpose of strengthening Jesus for his messianic role. In other words, Satan does not act independently of God....Temptation must be seen in the context of testing, because God is in control of both the tempter and the circumstances, and he will never allow a person to be tempted beyond what he or she is able to endure ([1 Cor. 10:13](#)). (Wilkins)

- The nature of the temptations is expressed in the tempter's first words: "If you are the Son of God...." This key phrase, repeated in the second temptation ([4:6](#)) and assumed in the third ([4:9](#)), reflects the tempter's overall intent to manipulate Jesus: "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." The voice from heaven recently confirmed the identity and the relationship to Jesus as "my Son, whom I love" ([3:17](#)). Satan does not doubt Jesus' identity as the Son of God, nor is he trying to get Jesus to doubt it; rather, he is trying to get Jesus to misuse his prerogatives as the Son of God. He is subtly playing off Jesus' identity, almost even flattering him, to trick him into going contrary to the Father's will for the Son. "If you are the Son of God, why should you stay hungry? Just turn those stones into bread, which you are capable of doing, and feed yourself," the tempter seems to be implying. (Wilkins)
- Temptations are one of the enemy's ways of trying to get a person to go contrary to God's specific will. Therefore, a temptation is not always trying to get a person to do something that is inherently sinful. It is not inherently wrong to turn stones into bread. But the Father's will for the Son at this time is to fast, not to eat. Therefore, turning stones into bread will lead Jesus astray. The question really is, What is the Father's will for the Son? (Wilkins)
- Matthew's final comment on the temptation narrative gives a comforting conclusion, but it also gives insight to the bigger picture behind Jesus' conflict with Satan. (1) The immediate outcome of Jesus' rebuke of Satan was, "Then the devil left him." Although this is only the first of the many attacks Jesus will experience throughout his ministry, it establishes the precedent for his, and all, spiritual warfare. Jesus must stay fixed on the Father's will, no matter what the circumstances or whatever temptations may come. Resisting the devil's onslaught through standing firm on the truth of God will cause Satan to flee (cf. [James 4:7](#); [1 Peter 5:9](#)). (Wilkins)