

# JESUS IS...

A perspective view of a suspension bridge with a metal grate deck, leading towards a central tower and surrounded by dense green and autumn-colored trees.

WELCOME TO LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH  
JANUARY 15, 2017



welcome to  
**long beach alliance church**

we are a community of Jesus followers who  
love God, love others, & serve the world

**New Foundations Classes Just Started!**  
Join us at 11:00AM for the next 5 weeks as we dive in...

### Hearing God

Facilitators: Melinda Lankford & Missy McDougall  
Located: Sanctuary Lobby

A special class for women only where we will be discovering how to hear God's voice in every circumstance of life!

### Daily Christian Living

Facilitator: John Carriveau  
Located: Room 102

Discovering the foundational aspects of Christianity and incorporating these central Gospel aspects of Christian Living into practice in our lives!

### Telling God's Story

Facilitators: Scott Trickett & Matt Swaney  
Located: Room 202

Telling others about God is one of the most important aspects of our Christian life and perhaps one of the most challenging? It is also one of our deepest desires as followers to share the love of Jesus with others. In this class we will be looking at this tension from new perspectives that are anchored by ancient truths. It will be a great time to explore together how God has designed us to be His image bearers.

### Childcare & Kids Fun-n-Funky Hour!

Nursery thru Pre-K Sign-Up: [matt@lbac.org](mailto:matt@lbac.org)  
Kids Hour Led By: Chris Lankford  
11:00AM-12:00PM (Fun, Snacks, Fun, Crafts, and More Funner!)

### The Next 50 Update

LBAC's Facility Renovation Fund

\$0

\$60,646 (81%)

Current Progress Toward Goal

\$75,000

Next 50 Goal

Visit <http://www.lbac.org/our-church/giving>  
for information about giving online, and  
for more detailed giving information!

HOW  
WE  
LOVE

February 10-11  
Register Now @ [lbac.org](http://lbac.org)

### LBAC Year-to-Date Financial Report

Budget	Required	Received	Budget %
Weekly:	\$12,236.37	\$7,666.54	62.7%
Month-to-Date:	\$24,472.74	\$11,299.54	46.2%
Year-to-Date:	\$244,727.40	\$227,228.95	92.8%
Disbursed YTD:	\$220,126.02	GOF Balance:	\$7,723.77



# LBAC's Family Calendar & Events

## Sunday, January 15

- 9:00AM Morning Coffee
  - 9:30AM Worship & Celebration
  - 11:00AM Foundations Classes
  - 12:00PM Deaconess Meeting
  - 12:00PM How We Love Leader Meeting
  - 12:30PM Hume Fundraiser Parent Meeting
  - 6:00PM Youth Leader Meeting
- 3203 Silva Street, Lakewood

## Monday, January 16

- 6:00PM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

## Tuesday, January 17

- 10:00AM All Staff Team Meeting
- 7:00PM High School Youth Group

## Wednesday, January 18

- 6:30PM AWANA

## Thursday, January 19

- 5:00PM Lydia House Women's Outreach
- 7:00PM Junior High Youth Group

## Friday, January 20

- 6:30AM Men's Bible Study
- 8:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

## Saturday, January 21

- 9:00AM Compulsive Eaters Anonymous

## Sunday, January 22

- 9:00AM Morning Coffee
- 9:30AM Worship & Celebration
- 11:00AM Foundations Classes
- 6:00PM International Student Ministries Mtg

## MISSIONS

<http://www.lbac.org/missions>

Join us for Perspectives & Serving the World!

## GROWTH GROUPS

<http://www.lbac.org/gg>

Mid-week Bible Studies for all Adults

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/children>

Sunday Mornings

Gospel Project @ 9:00AM & 10:45AM

## AWANA

<http://www.lbac.org/awana>

Wednesdays through May 6:30PM-8:30PM

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/youth>

JH & HS Foundations ~ Sundays @ 10:45AM

HS Core Groups ~ Tuesdays @ 7:00PM

JH Core Groups ~ Thursdays @ 7:00PM

## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/women>

Woman To Woman Mentoring

Contact: sherylnnelbac@gmail.com

Lydia House Meals Ministry

Contact: robbi@apabrandu.com

Women Connecting with Missions

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 7:00PM

Crafty Women

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month @ 10:00AM

## MEN'S MINISTRIES

<http://www.lbac.org/men>

Contact: mensministry@lbac.org

## long beach alliance church offices

3331 palo verde avenue • long beach, ca • 90808-4113  
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[www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch](http://www.facebook.com/longbeachalliancechurch)  
 church office hours: tuesday-friday, 12NOON-5:00PM

## church staff team

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# Jesus Is Understanding

LONG BEACH ALLIANCE CHURCH · JANUARY 15, 2017  
PASTOR CHRIS LANKFORD

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*No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

*1 Corinthians 10:13*

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## 1) A Case Study On Temptation

- A) There are clever similarities to most temptations in our lives. Almost all temptations masquerade a 'human want' as a 'human need.' In addition, almost all human temptations hide 'sin' behind a believable 'truthful veil.' Finally, most temptations can be reduced to a 'primary cause,' but actually involve numerous 'subtle causes' which get lost in the intoxicating responses of guilt and shame of our failure(s).
- B) For instance, consider the temptations of Adam & Eve (Genesis 3:1-13). The serpent tempts Eve by questioning the goodness of God's provision (3:5), veiling the sin of insubordination behind the half-truth of "you will not surely die" (3:4). But her sin? Yes, it is insubordination against God, but more subtly it is Eve's "eye" viewing sin as "good, delightful, and desirable," leading her to "see, take, and eat" (3:6).
- C) Adam, for his part in this story, has been strangely quiet (note his silence from 3:1 to most of 3:6), not challenging Eve's overstatement of "not touching" (3:3) or the serpent's deceptions (3:4-5), passively acquiescing to Eve's 'voice' to eat the fruit (3:6). Yes, Adam's sin was insubordination by eating fruit, but more subtly, Adam made his ears deaf to God's voice (note Adam's judgment in 3:17).
- D) Adam & Eve's responses? The stuff of legend. In a sad (but common to this day) isolating response, Adam & Eve hide from one another (3:7), hide from God (3:8-10), and try to hide the truth (3:10-11). Then, Adam subtly blames God and overtly blames Eve (3:12), and Eve responds by blaming the serpent (3:13). Intoxicating guilt and shame.

## 2) Superficial Reasons Result In Superficial Solutions

- A) If you polled Christians about Adam & Eve's sin, what explanation would you hear? I imagine many would explain, "God told Adam & Eve to not

eat an apple, but they did it anyway, which was sin, so God cast them out of Eden and now all of mankind deserves Hell, and it's all because they ate the fruit..." While partially true, it's also a wholly inadequate explanation, especially in our world!

- B) Is it any shock people think God is a temperamental wacko when these are the explanations of His people? It reminds me of a video I once watched, and good news, you are about to watch it right now (I hope).
- C) For many of us, the world we have grown up in was one of sin labels (sex, drugs, addictions, anger, abuse) and the solutions were often to simply "stop it." A more nuanced version of this has been, receive Jesus and then He will help you "stop it." While partially true, this is almost always a lie. This does not actually work, and is not taught in the Bible.

### **3) Why Do Temptations Tempt You?**

- A) If you look at the three temptations of Christ (Luke 4:1-13), you could view three simple temptations (eat because you're hungry, bow down because you're merciful, and jump to prove God loves you). Of course, solving these temptations becomes easy as well. Just don't listen to the devil, listen to God, and everything will be fine. That's what Jesus did, right? Look at it, it's right there! That's what the verses mean, right?
- B) Look more closely. All of Jesus' answers are from the Exodus story (Deuteronomy 8:3, 6:13, and 6:16). Where Israel had been unfaithful in the desert, Jesus chooses obedience. This is not just about bread, it's about dependence. It's not about mercy for humanity, it's about God's glory. It's not about testing God, it's about trusting Him.
- C) Look even more closely. The devil is not just tempting Jesus, He is mocking God. He's not just tempting the Son, He is humiliating the Father. The devil knows God is unmoved by temptation, but clearly, he did not think that about Jesus. He works to drive a wedge of doubt into Jesus. He may lose this battle in the desert, but he is still trying to win the war, which will end up (not all that ironically) in a garden.
- D) Why were Jesus' temptations tempting? Because each of them tugged powerfully at both His deity & humanity. They were assaults against the whole person, the God-man suffering (Hebrews 2:18, 4:15-16).
- E) The temptations of Christ would not be tempting to you. But, why are your temptations tempting for you? Is it really about the sin labels? Like a disease symptom, we must go deeper to find why we are tempted. There are limitless temptations, but why do certain temptations "stick" to you?
- F) The devil is not omniscient, but he is hungry. You and I are like a juicy snack. Remember, escape may not be obvious, but Jesus is already there, and is delighted to provide us our escape in Him (1 Corinthians 10:13)!



# *Growth Group Guide*

## *Week #2 • Luke 4:1-15*



### *Ice Breaker*

- Have you been in a desert? Did you enjoy it? Why or why not?

### *In-Depth*

*Read Luke 4:1-13*

- Discuss what you learned from this week's sermon.
1. Chris discussed the surface temptation, as well as the deeper temptation in each of Satan's three attempts. Describe both of them in your own words.
    - A. Luke 4:3
    - B. Luke 4:5-7
    - C. Luke 4:9-11
  2. Give some examples (in your life or hypothetically) of temptations that might have both a surface temptation and deeper temptation for sin at work.



3. The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted (Matthew 4:1, Luke 4:1). What reasons can you think of as to why God might have done this?

*Read Hebrews 11:17; James 1:2-4; James 1:12-15; 1 Peter 1:6-7*

4. God tests us, but doesn't tempt us. Explain the difference. Describe the benefits that come from testing.

## *Making It Relevant*

1. What did Jesus do to prepare for and overcome Satan's temptations? How does his example apply in my life?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13
  - A. How does the warning in verse 12 apply to me?
  - B. Do I really believe the promise in verse 13? How can it be an encouragement to me as I battle temptation?