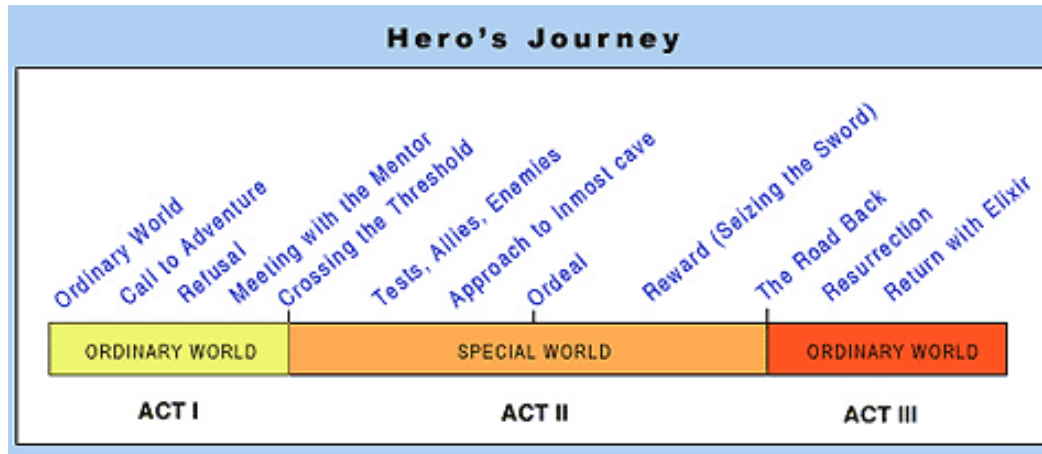


## International Conversation Café

### Hero Story- Jesus Goes Through Temptation

People love hero stories. Today there are superheroes in movies and comic books that young people look up and aspire to. Throughout time, people have admired heroes. We see them in mythology as well as historical figures we look to as nations.

Below is a graph that demonstrates the steps in a typical hero journey.



<http://www.movieoutline.com/articles/the-hero-journey-mythic-structure-of-joseph-campbell-monomyth.html>

*Tell about your favorite hero story, fictional or true, and see if it follows the above pattern.*

Jesus Christ was called to a mission. We see in his baptism that he was set apart and recognized by God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He left his life of carpentry and family. Though His mission is not detailed in the beginning, it unfolds after his time of temptation. In contrast to the graph above, he never refused what he was called to do. For this reason, this discussion will focus on his time of temptation.

### Temptation of Jesus- Luke 4

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. The Spirit led him into the desert. There the devil tempted him for 40 days.

Jesus ate nothing during that time. At the end of the 40 days, he was hungry.

The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Man doesn't live only on bread'" (Luke 4:1-4).

*Restate what the devil suggested. What was Jesus' response?*

*In light of Jesus being sent by God, what would be wrong with the devil's suggestion?*

*What do you think is the significance of the statement, "Man doesn't live only on bread?"*

Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place. In an instant, he showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. He said to him, "I will give you all their authority and glory. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So, if you worship me, it will all be yours."

Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve'" (Luke 4:8).

*Restate what the devil suggested and tell how Jesus responded. What would be wrong with the devil's suggestion?*

*How does Jesus' response stop the temptation?*

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; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test'" (Luke 4:9-12).

*Retell this section in your own words.*

*A test giver is always greater than the test taker. Jesus's point was that a person should not be evaluating God, but God evaluates people. In light of Jesus being sent on a mission by God, why would the devil suggest to Jesus this idea?*



Armusik, Eric. The Temptation of Christ. 2011.  
armusik.com

*Look at the painting. Describe what you see.*

*Why do you think a hero needs to go through a time of testing?*

*Are there other examples of heroes and testing you can recall?*

God had a purpose in sending Jesus through testing. Later, it is revealed in the New Testament. In speaking of Jesus, it says,

"We have a high priest who can feel it when we are weak and hurting. We have a high priest who has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin. So, let us boldly approach the throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it. (Hebrews 4:14-16)."

*Restate the main thought in this Scripture.*

*How can knowing Jesus's experience in temptation help us when we go through difficult times that test our faith?*