



## Are We Committed To God?

Dear Group Leader,

When life gets tough where will your family turn? That is the question you want to address in this lesson. It is real easy to praise God when things are going good. The real test is when the walls come crumbling down!

Peace,  
Gilbert Kerrigan

### INTRODUCTION

1. Name some “underdogs” in Scripture.

**GOOD ADVICE**     Read 1 Chronicles 15:1-2

1. What does the Lord mean when He says, “The Lord is with you?”
2. What does it mean to be with Him?
3. Does this mean that you will never have any problems in life?

**SHOWDOWN IN THE DESERT**     Read Matthew 4:1-11

1. Why would these three different proposals by Satan be so tempting to Jesus?  
*Philip Yancey writes, “As I look back on the three temptations, I see that Satan proposed an enticing improvement. He tempted Jesus toward the good parts of being human without the bad: to savor the taste of bread without being subject to the fixed rules of hunger and of agriculture, to confront risk with no real danger, to enjoy fame and power with the prospect of painful rejection—in short, to wear a crown but not a cross.*
2. If you were a witness to these temptations what would you have thought about Jesus?
3. Where did his commitments lie? How do you know this?
4. What tools did he use to fight off temptation?

**FAITH vs. REALITY**     Sing “The Steadfast Love of the Lord”

*This song is actually a song taken directly from scripture in one of the most devastating periods of Israel’s history. Jeremiah had spent a long life prophesying about the coming destruction of Jerusalem. In Lamentations we find that the destruction has taken place and Jeremiah paints some very depressing pictures of the event. He writes: a) “How deserted lies the city, once so full of people (1:1),” b) “All her people groan as they search for bread (1:11),” c) “My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within, my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed, because children and infants faints in the streets of the city (2:11),” d) “Young and old lie together in the dust of the streets; my young men*



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*And young women have fallen by the sword (2:21)."  
I could go on and on with the descriptions of Jerusalem's destruction, but I'll stop there.*

*This was not to be their fate. They were God's people! "We will always be protected," was their cry. That was their faith. But reality hit them right between the eyes—their sins had destroyed them! "What do we do now?"*

*It is in the midst of all of this that we find our song. It is Lamentations 3:22-24. The English Standard Version (ESV) translates the Hebrew just like our song.*

*"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;  
His mercies never come to an end;  
They are new every morning;  
Great is your faithfulness.  
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul  
'Therefore I will hope in Him.'"*

1. How, in the midst of all this destruction, can Jeremiah write about God's steadfast love? How can say that God's mercies never end?
2. When the world crashes in on you, or your family, can you sing this song?