

Life of Christ

Jesus is Tempted

Matthew 4:1-11

Younger Verse

I have hidden your word in my heart. Psalm 119:11

Older Verse

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
Psalm 119:11

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus was tempted but did not sin.
Understand that Jesus used Scripture to resist temptation.
Show the importance of learning and using Bible verses to help in our lives.

Opener

Have you ever seen the cartoons that show a devil sitting on someone's shoulder trying to get the person to do something wrong? The devil really *does* try to **tempt** us to do bad things (sin). In today's lesson we will see what Jesus does when Satan tempts him.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it.. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

In last week's lesson, we learned that Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. After his baptism, God led Jesus into the desert. Jesus stayed in the desert for 40 days and nights, praying and listening to God. During that time, he did not eat anything because He was trying to pay close attention to God. This is called fasting.

After 40 days and nights, the devil came to Jesus and tried to tempt Him to do wrong.

First the devil said, "If you are God's Son, tell these rocks to turn into bread." Satan waited until Jesus was VERY hungry—he had not eaten for 40 days! But even though Jesus had the power to turn the stones into bread like Satan said, he knew it was not the right time. He could not listen to Satan.

Jesus responded by using a memory verse, "It is written in the Scriptures, 'A person does not live by eating only bread. But a person lives by everything the Lord says.'" This was a quote from Deuteronomy 8:3.

Next, the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem. He took Jesus to the highest place on the temple building and said, "If you are God's Son, jump off." Then he quoted a Bible verse to try to convince Jesus. The devil said, "It is written in the Scriptures, 'He has put his angels in charge of you. They will catch you with their hands. And you will not hit your foot on a rock.'" However, Jesus answered with another memory verse, "The Bible also says, 'Do not test the Lord your God' (Deuteronomy 6:16)," so Jesus did not jump off the building.

A third time the devil tried to get Jesus to sin. He led Jesus to the top of a high mountain. He showed Jesus all the world. He said to Jesus, "If you will bow down and

worship me, I will give you everything you see." Jesus would not bow down. He answered the devil by saying, "Go away from me Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'" This was Deuteronomy 6:13.

So the devil left Jesus and angels came to take care of Him. Jesus showed us a wonderful example of what *we* can do when we are tempted—remember and say Scripture verses!

The Bible tells us in Ephesians 6 that the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. In other words, to fight Satan's attacks, we need to know God's Word and use it! It worked for Jesus—and he is our example. Psalm 119:11 says that "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." This is exactly what Jesus did—he *knew* the Scriptures and used them to resist temptation. **Do we remember Bible verses that can help us during temptation?**

Wow! Jesus obeyed God and did not sin. He even obeyed God when it was *really* hard—like when he died for us on the cross. It did not feel good, but he did it anyway so that we can have a relationship with him—forever!

Review Questions

1. What was Jesus doing in the desert for 40 days and nights? (Answer: praying and fasting)
2. Who came to Jesus and tempted him? (Answer: Satan/the Devil)
3. How did Jesus fight Satan's attacks? (Answer: quoting Scripture verses)
4. How can we resist temptation/Satan's attacks? (Answer: remember Bible verses, pray)

Prayer Time

Remind the students about the importance of prayer. Pray for them—that they will learn more about the Bible and come to know Jesus as their Savior and Lord. Pray that they will be able to resist temptation.

Life Application

Think of Bible verses that would help the students in a moment of temptation. Examples: **Ephesians 4:32—Be kind and compassionate to one another.** **Colossians 3:9—Do not lie to each other.**

**Make sure the students understand that God loves them and He will help them to make good choices. The first thing they must do is invite him into their hearts. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." God will forgive us of our sins and help us to follow him.

Planning for Lesson 3
Jesus chooses His Disciples
Matthew 4:17-25

Preschool Lesson For Jesus is Tempted

Bring several objects to show as you tell the story today:

Rock

Slice of Bread

Little box (for a church)

Little figure to be Jesus—could be a twisted pipecleaner or clothes pin

Last week we learned that Jesus got baptized in the water. After that happened, Jesus went into the desert to pray. He stayed there a long time and He got *very* hungry. He had not eaten anything because He was trying to listen to God and do what He said. His tummy must have rumbled a lot!

Suddenly, the devil came and told Jesus to turn a rock into bread so He would not be hungry (show the rock and bread). Jesus did not listen to the devil. He knew that the devil was trying to get Him to do something wrong. Instead, Jesus said a Bible verse. He told the devil it was more important to do what God says.

Then, the devil took Jesus to the top of the church (show the little box or picture of a church). He **tempted** Jesus to jump off. The devil told Jesus that angels would catch Him. But Jesus told the devil that God did not want people to test Him. So, Jesus did not do wrong.

Again, the devil tried to get Jesus to do wrong (tempted him). He took Jesus to a high mountain (find a high place in the room or stand up with the Jesus figure). He showed Jesus all the world. The devil told Him that He could have everything He saw if He would bow down to him. Jesus would not bow down to the devil! He told the devil to go away! He told him that we are to worship God and do only what He says.

The devil tried 3 times to get Jesus to sin (do bad things). Did He? **NO!** **Jesus did the right thing each time.** He remembered Bible verses that helped him fight Satan.

Sometimes we may be tempted to do the wrong thing. God wants us to do right! It is helpful to remember Bible verses so we can make Satan go away!

Pray and thank God for giving us the Bible to help us live the way He wants us to live. Ask him to help us hide His Word in our hearts.

Hands-on Activities for Jesus is tempted

Make bookmarks with today's memory verse on them (Psalm 119:11). Bring strips of construction paper or let the children cut them out (depending on age group). Let them decorate the bookmarks using glitter, crayons, or anything you want! Make it fun. Tell the kids they can use the bookmarks as a reminder to quote Scripture verses when they are tempted. They may want to make more for friends and family members. They can also write other verses they know on them.

Play "Make Me Laugh." One person is chosen to sit down and try not to laugh. Everyone else does silly things to try to get the person to laugh. No one can touch the person. If the person starts laughing, let someone else try. When you are ready to end the game, ask the students if it was difficult not to laugh when they really wanted to. Remind students that it is difficult to resist temptation, but with God's help, we can do it.

Talk about what it means to be tempted and what it means to do wrong—sin. Share some experiences from your life. If you have older kids, bring articles from the paper or magazines that show people that were tempted and what decisions they made. Talk about alternatives they had.

Try helping the kids learn this little rap about the story (to the tune of We will, we will rock you)

**Jesus was a cool dude forty days without food,
devil tried to tempt Him, but that's ok
He's got love on His face, no disgrace
He's spreading His love all over the place
saying, "We will, we will, do right."
saying, "We will, we will, do right."**