

## Reality – Bible Lesson for May 24, 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

### New Testament Section One: The Life of Jesus Lesson 4: The Temptation

- 1. Lesson: The Temptation**
- 2. Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13
- 3. Memory Verse:** "The LORD is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need." Psalm 23:1
- 4. Mission Story:** Next week
- 5. Bible Skills:** Roll the Dice
- 6. Materials needed for teaching the lesson - Bible Skills Game:** one or more dice (larger is better)

#### Videos you can use to reinforce the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=afzoWMTkKHY>

Pursue GOD kids:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EbMGyzaAYw>

**1. Prayer and Welcome Activity:** Pray with your children – then introduce one of the following discussion:

- **Ask:** What is temptation? (The desire to do something we can't or shouldn't do)
- **Ask:** What are some things that kids are tempted by? (Wait for responses.)
- Teacher - share something that you are tempted by. Help kids to understand that temptation isn't something we grow out of once we reach adulthood, but we must constantly rely on God to help us overcome temptation.
- **Ask:** When you are tempted by something, how do you deal with the temptation?

Have you ever been tempted to do or say something that you know is wrong? Temptation, by itself, doesn't have to be sinful - It's what we do when we're tempted that matters. Sometimes it's really hard to walk away from something we want (even if it's something we shouldn't have.) But when we give in to temptation, that leads us into sin.

Did you know that even Jesus, who never sinned, was tempted? He wanted to show us what to do when we face temptation, through His example. He responded to temptation by quoting Scripture from God's Word. Let's listen to what He did...

**2.Bible Story:** (Please notice the bold print Bible verses. This is designed so that you can stop and let the children take turns reading these verses out loud)

After John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness – into the desert. **(Luke 4:1)** There Jesus spent time praying and fasting. Does anyone know what it means to fast? (To go without food for a given amount of time in order to spend time praying and thinking about God.) Jesus wanted to spend time talking to His Father about the ministry He was about to begin.

But Satan was watching and waiting for his chance. He wanted Jesus to fail because he didn't want Jesus to rescue us. Now, we need to remember that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus could have zapped Satan to another planet to put him away from Him...but He didn't. He knew all along that Satan was going to try to tempt Him. **(Matthew 4:1)** After all, God had sent Him into the wilderness. Satan never takes Jesus by surprise. Jesus had taken on human flesh; He had become a man - and He wanted to show us what to do when Satan tempts us. He wanted to show us how to stand against temptation. The temptations we face never take God by surprise either. He knows everything we are facing, and we need to understand that God will be with us to strengthen and guide us through those times.

Well, after Jesus had prayed and fasted for 40 days, Satan thought he saw his chance. Jesus had fasted and prayed all that time so He could give everything He had, physically and spiritually, to God. At the end of those 40 days, how do you think Jesus felt? Satan saw that Jesus was hungry. **(Matthew 4:2)** He tried to tempt Jesus when He was vulnerable from being hungry. "He said, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.'" But Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" **(Deuteronomy 8:3) (Matthew 4:3-4)** Instead of thinking of how hungry He was, Jesus remembered what God's Word said.

Satan often tries to get us to ignore God and think only about our own needs, especially when we're hungry or tired or not feeling well. That's what the Israelites were doing in the Bible verse Jesus quoted. They were wandering through the wilderness too, but they were more worried about what they were going to eat than about the God who was providing for them. Jesus showed us that living by God's Word is more important than worrying about what we want or need.

Satan must have gnashed his teeth in frustration! He failed at trying to tempt Jesus' physical nature so next he tried to tempt His spiritual nature. He took Jesus to the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem and said, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. It is written, 'The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won't trip over a stone.'" **(Psalm 91:11,12) (Matthew 4:5-6)** Jesus probably wanted to laugh at this bit of trickery the devil tried to use on Him. He knew every verse of the Bible and that was not what the verse meant. He answered, "It is also written, 'Do not test the Lord your

God.' " (Deuteronomy 6:16) (**Matthew 4:7**) Jesus knew that being tempted is not sin – giving in to temptation is sin. His response to Satan's ridiculous suggestion is that we are not to test God.

Satan knew that what he was doing wasn't working and one would think he would just give up. But he tried one last idea. He tried to tempt Jesus away from His very reason for being on the earth. He took Jesus to the highest mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "If you bow down and worship me, I will give you all this." (**Matthew 4:8-9**)

Jesus knew that God is the only One worthy of worship. He looked at Satan and said "Get away from me, Satan! It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.'" (Deuteronomy 6:13) (**Matthew 4:10**) Then the devil left Jesus and angels came to Jesus to take care of Him and to comfort Him. (**Matthew 4:11**) As it reads in The Jesus Storybook Bible, "Jesus wasn't like Adam. Jesus was a new kind of man. He would not believe the terrible lie that the enemy spoke. Jesus knew God loved Him. And He would trust God. No matter what."

God knows that we will be tempted by many things in our lives, and He has given us a powerful weapon to help us fight against it. Does anyone know what it is? (The Bible) God's Word reminds us of what is true, even when Satan tries to tempt us to forget it. It is like a sword God gives to us to defend us against the enemy and send him away from us. **James 4:7** says "So obey God. Stand up to the devil. He will run away from you."

There are many other verses that are good to memorize and will help us when we are tempted – a few are **1 Corinthians 10:13; John 3:16; Romans 5:8**; and many more. Jesus showed us how to resist temptation by hiding God's Word in our hearts. You and I can do the same thing.

### **3. Bible Exploration – Checking for Understanding:**

1. After being baptized by John the Baptist, Jesus went into the wilderness to fast and pray. How long did Jesus stay in the wilderness? (40 days)
2. The devil told Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become \_\_\_\_\_. (bread)"
3. The devil took Jesus to the top of the temple and tempted Him to \_\_\_\_\_. (jump off)
4. What did the devil promise if Jesus would bow down and worship him? (all the kingdoms of the world)
5. How did Jesus answer Satan in each of his tests? (with Scripture)
6. (challenge question) Read Psalm 91:11-12. From just these verses, do you think the Psalmist is suggesting you should throw yourself off the cliff? Now read all of Psalm 91. What is the whole context of the Psalm?

#### **4. Prayer/Journaling:**

We learned today that Jesus is our example for how to deal with temptation in our lives. He is also our example for how to treat other people, how to obey God, and how to use our talents and abilities to serve others.

I want you to take a piece of paper and draw a line, vertically, down the center of it. Now on the left side of the paper write "ME". On the right side of the paper write "JESUS". I'm going to give you some characteristics and qualities and I want you to put a check on the left or the right side of the paper – or both – if what I say applies to you or Jesus or both. Ready?

1. Likes to spend time with people
2. Prays for people
3. Uses talents and abilities to help people
4. Encourages people
5. Obeys God

**Discussion:** How do you compare to Jesus? What talents and abilities did He have while He was on earth? What do you need to do to be more like Jesus? How can using your talents and abilities help others? People need the love and encouragement you can bring to them. Remember – that a person who belongs to Jesus lives a life that reflects His holiness and truthfulness and goodness and grace. The light of his or her life can outshine the darkness that is around us. Let your light shine.

**Pray:** Dear God, please help us to become more like Jesus as we follow His example in our lives. [Let's take time now to pray for our families, our church, our world, and for each other. (Take prayer requests)]

**5.Mission Story:** Next week

**6.Bible Skills:** Roll the Dice

- Have your children sit down and provide them with dice (larger are better) You can use one or two – depending on the level of difficulty you are seeking.
- Decide who will go first to roll the dice.
- As each child rolls the dice, they should name as many books of the Bible as the number that shows up on the dice.
- Keep going around the circle, throwing the dice and naming books of the Bible according to the number that shows up on the dice.
- As a challenge, have them not name books that other people have named.
- Additional challenges are: name the books in the order that they appear in the Bible or only name Old Testament or New Testament books

**7. Memory Verse:** Have the children say the memory verse one more time –  
“The LORD is my shepherd. He gives me everything I need.” Psalm 23:1

**Elementary –**

**Play:** Application Pictures/Skits –

Ask “in what situations would it be useful to know this memory verse?” and then draw pictures of those situations on a piece of paper. The aim is to see how memorizing the bible is useful in life. Alternatively, they can create a skit that demonstrates how the memory verse might be applied to a real-life situation.

**8. Closing Prayer:** Lead the children in a closing prayer. Encourage your child/children to also say their own individual prayers about any additional concerns they have. Don’t forget to pray for missionaries.