

# THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 4:1-13



*Christ overcame temptation and defeated Satan.*

## The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

### Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

**Man does not live by bread alone** - Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 8:3 to rebuff Satan. Moses first spoke those words to Israel to remind them of their wanderings in the desert, where God provided manna. God did this, it says, to teach them that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Israel's wandering in the desert was meant to humble them and to test them to see if they would obey God's commands. Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy to rebuke Satan and to signal that He would succeed where Israel failed. Jesus passed the test on our behalf.

**You shall only worship God** – In Luke 4:8, Jesus said, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve," quoting from Deuteronomy 6:13. Satan actually asked Jesus to worship him. Israel failed to worship God alone, but Jesus refused Satan's temptation, rebuking him firmly.

**You shall not put the Lord to the test** - Satan saved his most devious trick for last. First, he tempted Christ with food and immediate pleasure. Second, he tempted Christ with a shortcut to power. And finally, he tempted Christ with the Word of God. Satan quotes from Psalm 91:11,12. In short, he told Jesus, If your word is true, prove it. Jesus saw right through Satan's scheme and rebukes him a third time. Jesus does so by quoting Deuteronomy 6:16. Defeated, the devil left Jesus until an opportune time. That time would come when Satan entered Judas' heart, and Judas betrayed Jesus. What Satan did not know was that God is always in control and was even using Satan's manipulations to accomplish His predetermined plan.

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### WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and passed the test so that we who have failed could receive His righteousness. Now He stands before the Father as our high priest making intercession for us. This He does, full of grace and mercy, knowing the difficulty we face in our battle against sin and temptation. The passages from Luke 4 He quoted in His defense against Satan, are from the account of Israel's wandering in the desert. They wandered for 40 years – grumbling and complaining and ultimately failing. Jesus accomplished in 40 days what they could not in 40 years!

### ON THE ROAD TO EMMANUS

**Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.**

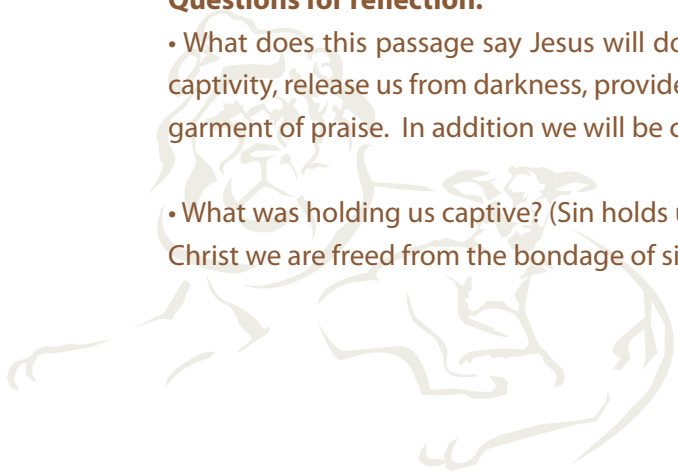
**Bible Passage: Isaiah 61:1-3**

#### **Connecting the passage to Christ:**

After His temptation in the wilderness, Jesus read this passage of Scripture. Jesus attributed the words of Isaiah to Himself, saying, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus had been in the synagogue when other teachers read, but that day Jesus read the scroll. The Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism. Now Jesus had passed the test of Satan's temptations. With the reading of Isaiah, Jesus uttered a kind of battle cry. The kingdom of God was advancing, and the defeat of Satan and the releasing of his prisoners was drawing nigh.

#### **Questions for reflection:**

- What does this passage say Jesus will do for us? (Jesus will bind up the brokenhearted, free us from captivity, release us from darkness, provide for us, give us a crown of beauty, and give us gladness and a garment of praise. In addition we will be called righteous because of the Lord's work.)
- What was holding us captive? (Sin holds unbelievers captive. Romans 6:17,18 says that when we trust Christ we are freed from the bondage of sin and we become slaves of righteousness).



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### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the *SWORD* Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

### ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

#### THREE OBJECTS, THREE TEMPTATIONS

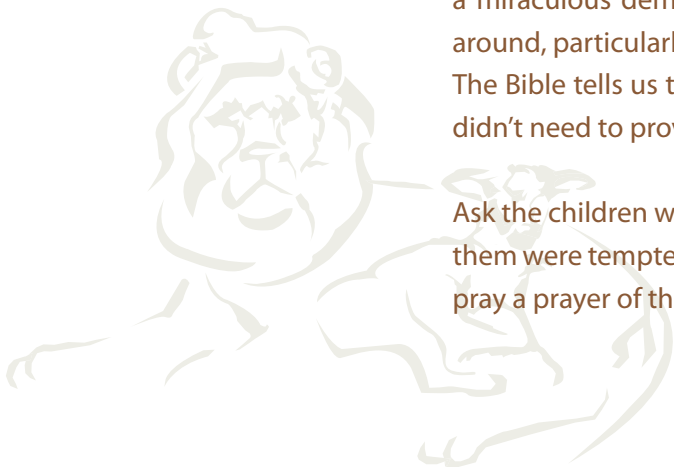
##### Supplies:

- a loaf of cinnamon raisin bread (hot out of an oven if possible)
- a fresh roll or two of brand new pennies
- a sheriff's or policeman's badge (can be a toy one, but if you can borrow one from a policeman in your church, a real one is more dramatic).

Read through the story and then ask the children if they can guess which temptation is represented in the objects and why.

- Bread – This represents the temptation for food. In a larger way this represents all the good things we crave in life that we can love more than God. This could be a nice house, a nice bike, clothes, or even something more abstract like control or ease.
- Coins – This represents false worship. Jesus said we cannot serve both God and money. We will love the one and hate the other. Satan tried to trick Jesus into worshipping him by promising the wealth of the world. People who would normally not do something evil may do it if they get enough money. "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils" (1 Timothy 6:10). There is a saying: Every man has his price." Jesus was offered the whole world yet could not be bought.
- Badge – This represents power and authority. Satan tempted Jesus to perform a miraculous demonstration of His power and authority. Pass the police badge around, particularly if you have a real one. Ask the children what power it conveys. The Bible tells us that Jesus didn't strive for power but made Himself nothing; He didn't need to prove Himself to anyone (Philippians 2:6-7).

Ask the children which temptation might tempt them the most. Ask them if any of them were tempted to try and snatch a piece of the bread. Then slice the bread and pray a prayer of thanks to God for providing for our physical and spiritual needs.



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### TEMPTATION IS ALL AROUND YOU

**Supplies:**

- a carton of milk
- a batch of mini chocolate chip cookies
- small paper cups

This activity is designed to help the children experience how desires can lead us to be tempted. (Be sure to check for any food allergies among the children and provide an alternative snack for this exercise if necessary.)

Pour a glass of milk and tell the children you want to test their temptation scale.

Ask them to evaluate how tempted they are to drink the glass of milk as you place it on their table. Have them call out a number one (least tempted) to ten (most tempted). Pass one cup around the entire class then take it back again.

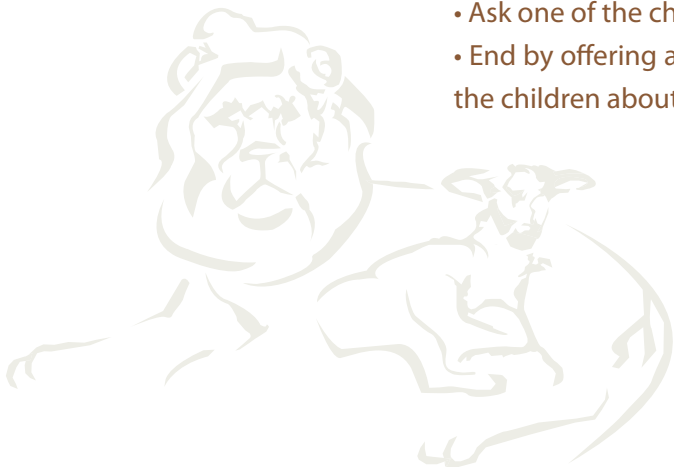
Follow the milk with a cookie on a napkin only give everyone a cookie on a napkin. After they report their number, give half the class permission to eat their cookie. Ask the other half if their level of temptation is getting higher. Ask them how they would feel if you asked them to now return their cookies to you. Give the rest of the class permission to eat their cookies.

Now pass the glass of milk again. Did their levels of temptation go up?

Explain to the class that temptation (a desire to engage in something) does not need to be sinful. It is okay to be tempted to eat a cookie for instance, but not okay to eat your neighbor's cookie or steal a second one from the teacher.

Explain to the class that when we want something too much (more than God), we will obey those desires over God. In this case stealing someone's cookie would be obeying our desire for another cookie over God's command not to steal.

- What can we learn from Jesus' example of fighting temptation? (Use the Word of God to fight temptation. This presumes you know the Word of God.)
- Ask one of the children to pray that God would help the class fight temptation.
- End by offering all the children another glass of milk and another cookie. Talk to the children about the amazing way Jesus avoided the snares of the devil.



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### I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE

Have the children read John 6:35-51 and ask them how this relates to Jesus' first temptation.

- How does Jesus' claim to be the bread of life relate to His first temptation? (In Luke 4:4 Jesus said that man does not live by bread alone. Deuteronomy 8:3 continues and says man does not live by bread alone but by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God. John 1:4 says Jesus is the word become flesh. So, Jesus is the real spiritual food come down from heaven.)

- How do we eat the bread of Jesus? (We eat the bread of Jesus just as Deuteronomy tells us: by consuming the Word of God. We need to memorize and place God's Word in our hearts so that when we are hungry and starving spiritually and struggling we will have something to sustain us.)

## PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

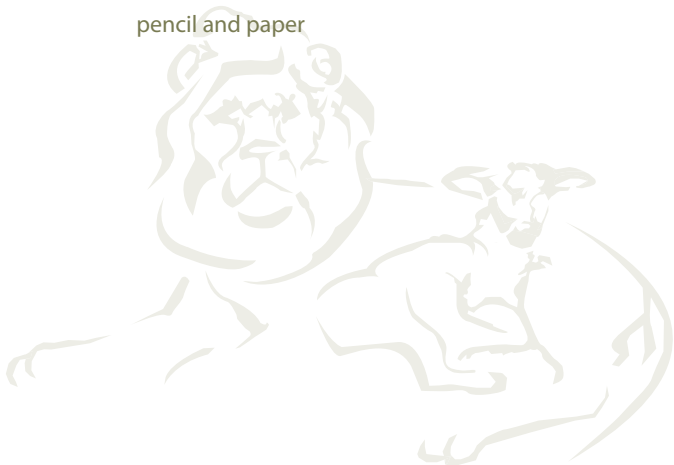
## IN CLASS PROJECT

### AN ACTIVITY

**Supplies:**

pencil and paper

Draw a picture of one of Jesus' three temptations.



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### FOR THE OLDER GRADES

#### MIME THE TEMPTATION

**Supplies:**

- one loaf of bread
- three dollar bills
- two small dumbbells
- a length of rope
- a globe
- a step ladder

Number the items one through six. Divide the class up into six teams. Make up slips of paper and write the numbers 1-6 on them. Fold up the slips of paper and place them in a cup. Have each team select a number corresponding to their prop. They are to use the prop to create a mime of one of the three temptations. They must use everyone in their team for the performance in some way. Give them ten minutes to figure out their skit, then assemble the class. Put on the dramas and see if the class can guess which of the temptations they are acting out. Review the passage and draw out the class as to what the greatest temptations older grade school students face are. Point them back to the cross as their solution and help in fighting temptation.

### A LITTLE BIT MORE

**Synagogue** - The word synagogue comes from the Greek word that means a gathering of people. With the defeat of Israel and Roman control, the synagogue emerged as a place where the Law could be read and preserved. It served as a gathering place for believers much like our churches today. It was a community building where other activities took place as well. Paul often took the Gospel to the synagogues in the cities he visited. Luke 4:16 and following is the oldest account of a synagogue worship service. Later, after the destruction of the temple, the sacrificial system would end and the synagogue would serve as the sole gathering place for Jews.

