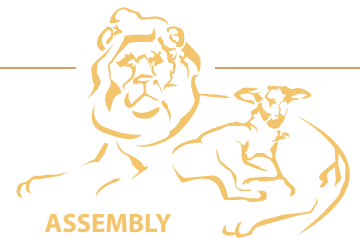


THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 4:1-14



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

MEMORIZE DEUT. 8:3B

"Man does not live on bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

Jesus quoted these words against Satan's first temptation. Explain to the class that in all of life we are to find our help and hope in the message of God's Word. Also, any time we are tempted, if we learn the Word of God, we can use the Bible and what it teaches to resist the temptations of sin that come our way. Jesus was applying what He was teaching, that is, using the Word of God as His help.

NAME THE TEMPTATIONS

See if any of the children can repeat back all three temptations and what Jesus said. If not, review them for a few minutes and have the children try again.

1. "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."
 - a. "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

2. "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."
 - a. "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

3. "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"
 - a. "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 4:1-14

HOW ARE YOU TEMPTED?

Ask the children to report how they are tempted. Then ask the class if they can think of a scripture that might help to fight that particular temptation.

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.

Right from the start of Jesus' ministry He is living a life that will ultimately prepare Him to be our great Savior. The writer of the book of Hebrews encourages us with these words:

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tempted as we are yet was without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:15-16)

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 He quoted are from the account of Israel wandering in the desert. They wandered for forty years – grumbling and complaining and ultimately failing. Jesus accomplished in forty days what they could not in forty years!

