

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 4:1-14



The STORY

Read about the temptation of Jesus in Luke 1:4:1-14.

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- Where did the Spirit of God lead Jesus? (The Spirit of God led Jesus into the desert.)
- What did Satan do to Jesus? (He tempted Jesus by commanding Him to do things that would have been sinful for Christ to do. In Matthew's Gospel Satan is actually called the "tempter.")
- How did Jesus answer the devil's temptations? (Jesus answered each of the three temptations with the truth of God's Word.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Satan pointing to stones tempting Jesus. Engage the children by asking:

- Why did Satan try to tempt Jesus to obey his commands? (If Jesus would even once obey the command of Satan, He would be following Satan's authority. Satan could never be over God, not even for one command.)
- Why is this story important for us? (The writer of Hebrews tells us that we can have courage to ask Jesus to help us because He was tempted just like we are, only He did not sin. So, we can be sure that Jesus understands how hard it is to overcome temptation.)
- What kinds of things are you tempted to do that are wrong?
Elicit that there are many ways we are tempted to not trust God. Note: Perhaps you could help the children by giving them a few ways in which you think children might be tempted.

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Why do you think Jesus went out into the wilderness with the Holy Spirit? (Jesus often went out into the wilderness to pray to His father. The fact that He ate nothing for forty days and nights tells us that He was keeping His mind on His heavenly Father. Though He did not eat for all those days, the Spirit of God strengthened Him.)
- What do you call it when you do not eat for a period of time while you seek the Lord? (Fasting.)
- Do people fast today? (Yes, people still fast today. In Acts 13 the disciples of Jesus were fasting and praying.)



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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.

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!

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.

