

the life of
Jesus

**Date: 1.26.25 | Title: Jesus was Tempted |
Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13 and Luke 4:1-13**

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students:

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.
God wants us to live for His glory.
God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.
The Gospels tell us about the life and ministry of Jesus

High School Students:

The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.
God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.
God wants us to live for His glory.
God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.
Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.
Jesus gave His life for us on the cross and He is the only way for salvation.
The Gospels tell us about the life and ministry of Jesus



**MEMORY
VERSE**

**"In this the love of God was made manifest
among us, that God sent his only Son into the
world, so that we might live through him."**

1 John 4:9



INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Group the students in your class into several teams. Each team will need a Bible. Explain that today we will be playing an old-fashioned sword drill. Each team will choose a teammate to go first. The first team to find that location in the Bible gets a point. The team with the most points at the end is the winner.

Read Ephesians 6:17 together. This verse says that God's Word is like a sword. The Word of God is able to cut down temptations we face by reminding us of what is true and helping us remember that we have all we need in Jesus. God's Word equips us to fight temptation and faithfully rest in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Today, we will learn that Jesus was tempted but resisted sin by trusting God and His Word.

God's Word is powerful. The Bible contains the message of salvation and gives us hope. It also helps us fight against sin. Today, we will learn how Jesus used God's Word to resist the lies and temptations of the devil. We can follow Jesus' example and also use Scripture to fight against any temptations we might face.



BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

After Jesus' baptism and His public identification as "God's beloved Son", the Holy Spirit anoints and empowers Jesus. Jesus' temptation in the wilderness is the last preparatory event before his public ministry begins.

Temptation is the enticement to do evil. Satan is the tempter (Matthew 4:3; 1 Thess. 3:5). God does not tempt anyone (James 1:13), but He does use circumstances to test a person's character and faithfulness to Him (Hebrews 11:17).

In the desert, Satan "the Father of Lies" (John 8:44), challenges Jesus and tempts him to satisfy His own desires rather than trusting God to supply all He needs. Mark 1:13 teaches that Jesus was in the wilderness being tempted for 40 days.

Jesus quotes scriptures in response to the devil. These quotes from Deuteronomy reflect lessons the Israelites should have learned during their time in the wilderness (Deut. 8:3).

Jesus was tempted in every way as we are yet He remained without sin (Hebrews 4:15). He endured victoriously and obediently.

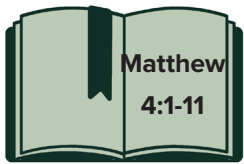
After the 40 days and nights of temptation, angels ministered to Jesus. All of heaven knew the significance of Jesus' initial victory in this cosmic battle.

The temptation of Jesus was an attempt to subvert God's plan for human redemption by causing Jesus to fall into sin and disobedience, thus disqualifying him as the sinless savior. God uses this evil for good by strengthening Jesus in His Messianic role.

The temptation of Jesus teaches us how to face temptation ourselves through the power of the Holy Spirit and through scripture, but it also subtly reminds us of the blessings that come as we hunger for God (James 4:7 and 1 Peter 5:9).

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LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



Locate the scripture in the Bible: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13 and Luke 4:1-13

Remind your group that we are now studying the New Testament. The first four books, the gospels, tell the story of Jesus' time as a man on earth from the voice of different authors. Our story today is covered in three of the four of the gospels.

**TELL
THE
STORY**



Tell the story:

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus did not eat for 40 days and 40 nights. He prayed and thought about God's plan for His life. When those days were over, Jesus was hungry.

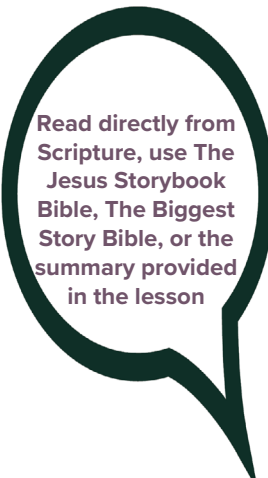
Then the devil, who tempts people to sin, came up to Jesus. He said, "If You are really God's Son, prove it. Tell these stones to become bread."

If Jesus used His power to turn the stones into bread, He could eat them so He wouldn't be hungry anymore. But Jesus refused. Instead of listening to the devil, Jesus chose to trust God to meet His needs. Jesus said, "God's Word says that man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

The devil tempted Jesus again. He took Jesus to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and said, "If You are really God's Son, prove it. Jump off this temple and trust God to protect You."

The devil even said: "God's Word says that God will order His angels to keep You safe, and they will protect You so that You will not even strike your foot against a stone."

The devil had used words from Scripture, but Jesus knew the devil's command was foolish. Jesus reminded him, "God's Word also says, do not test the Lord your God."



Read directly from Scripture, use The Jesus Storybook Bible, The Biggest Story Bible, or the summary provided in the lesson



Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...



Finally, the devil took Jesus to a high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and how great they were. The devil said to Jesus, “I will give You all the riches and power of these kingdoms. They have been given to me, and I can give them to anyone I want. If You want them, all You have to do is fall down and worship me.”

Jesus resisted temptation again. He replied, “Go away, Satan! God’s Word says: Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”

The devil left Jesus, and angels came right away to serve Jesus. Throughout all these temptations, Jesus never sinned.

Jesus defeated the devil’s temptations by trusting God. Satan tempted Jesus three times, and each time Jesus responded by believing Scripture, showing that He trusted in God.

Jesus never sinned and demonstrated that He loved God more than anything else- more than food, more than riches or earthly power, and more than controlling His circumstances. Jesus obediently trusted God in all things, even to the point of death on the cross. He defeated the devil once and for all through His death and resurrection. Jesus is the Word who gives us new life and the power to resist temptation.

We will all be tempted to sin, but like Jesus, we can choose to trust God. We trust God when we read our Bibles and believe its truth. We also trust God when we turn to Jesus and remember that His Spirit gives us the power to turn away from sin.

Re-tell the Bible Story: Have the students re-tell the story as best they can.

Share the GOSPEL:

Jesus was tempted, but He trusted God and never sinned. Jesus is perfect and righteous. A perfect sacrifice was required to take away sin. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. He died on the cross to free us from sin and to give us the power to say no to temptation



ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.



QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary or summary of scripture. Use the Bible Study Bookmark Questions as well as these questions to help students understand the text:

Who led Jesus into the wilderness after He was baptized? *The Holy Spirit*

Why was Jesus led into the wilderness? *He was going to be tempted by Satan. Jesus’ temptation was not a surprise to Him. He was willing to be led directly into the devil’s attempts to tempt Him.*

How many days and nights did Jesus not eat anything? *Jesus prayed and fasted for 40 days and 40 nights.*

What was the first temptation Satan presented to Jesus? *The devil knew Jesus was hungry, so he tempted Him to turn stones into bread.*

How did Jesus respond? *Jesus resisted the bread by believing Scripture and trusting that God would meet His needs.*

What was the second temptation Satan presented to Jesus?

How did Jesus respond?

What was the third temptation Satan presented to Jesus?

How did Jesus respond? *Jesus trusted God and resisted temptation by using the Word of God like a sword against Satan’s lies.*



QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

What is God's model plan for fighting temptation? How can you use this same tactic in your own life?

How do Jesus' temptations comfort us in our own struggles with temptations? *Jesus' humanity meant He experienced physical weakness and struggles like hunger, tiredness, and sadness. Jesus understands all the ways we are tempted and seeks to help us when we are weak.*

Are there times in your life when you feel like temptation is harder to resist? *Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights and was hungry. Satan knows when we face times of weakness, both physically and spiritually. It is important to trust God in all circumstances, so Satan does not gain a foothold.*

What are some other ways you have tried to fight temptation? What was your experience?

How would you encourage someone who falls into temptation and sins?

What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

What does the story teach me about myself?

Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?

Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?

How does this story help me live on mission?



PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to live a perfect life for us. Thank You for giving us the power through Jesus to say no to sin. Help our lives be pleasing to You. Amen.

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Play a game of Bible drill using the gospels.

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

We will take the month of January off from mission projects. Please make plans to attend the re-scheduled special missions emphasis training for all leadership on the afternoon of January 26h.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Spend time reviewing memory verse with students.

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Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD

- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD

- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

LOOK AROUND

- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

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Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?