



Life of Christ

Jesus is tempted

Matthew 4:1-11

Younger Verse

Set an example for the believers. 1st Timothy 4:12

Older Verse

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity. 1st Timothy 4:12

Lesson Goals

Help children understand how they can make correct choices like Jesus did
See how prayer and Scripture verses are important to doing right and being pure in your heart

Welcome Time

Ask the kids if during Christmas it was tempting to want to peek or open their gifts before Christmas. For most of us, it is very tempting to want to take a "little look" at our gifts. Jesus was tempted too. Let's see if He did the right thing.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

God led Jesus into the desert. Jesus stayed in the desert for 40 days and nights, praying and listening to God. During that time, he did not eat anything because He was trying to pay close attention to God. This was called fasting. (Be sure to warn the children not to fast for a long period of time because it can be deadly.)

After 40 days and nights, the devil came to Jesus and tried to tempt Him to do wrong.

First the devil said, "If you are God's Son, tell these rocks to turn into bread." Jesus would not do it. Instead, He answered by using a memory verse, "It is written in the Scriptures, 'A person does not live by eating only bread. But a person lives by everything the Lord says.'" This was a quote from Deuteronomy 8:3.

Next, the devil led Jesus to Jerusalem. He put Jesus on the top of the temple building and said, "If you are God's Son, jump off." Then he tried to use a memory verse to convince Jesus. The devil said, "It is written in the Scriptures, 'He has put his angels in charge of you. They will catch you with their hands. And you will not hit your foot on a rock.'" However, Jesus answered with another memory verse, "The Bible also says 'Do not test the Lord your God' (Deuteronomy 6:16)," so Jesus did not jump off the building.

A third time the devil tried to get Jesus to sin. He led Jesus to the top of a high mountain. He showed Jesus all the world. He said to Jesus, "If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you everything you see." Jesus would not bow down. He answered the devil by saying, "Go away from me Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'" This was Deuteronomy 6:13.

So the devil left Jesus and angels came to take care of Jesus. Remember that Jesus was tempted, but He did NOT do wrong. Jesus stayed pure.

What are some ways we are tempted? What did Jesus do when He was tempted? What can we do? How can we stay pure inside?

Jesus loved us so much that He did something just for you and me. He died on a cross for the wrongs that we have done. The best news is that Jesus didn't stay dead. He rose from the grave 3 days later. How exciting! If we believe and trust Jesus in our hearts, we will live with God forever in Heaven. If you want to know more, talk to us about it.

Learning Activities

Use activities that will encourage your children to LEARN how to do right and avoid sin.

Memory Verse Activities

Learning Scripture is so important! It can help you avoid temptations like Jesus did. Help the kids see how they need to set an example in 5 areas. Count them on your fingers and help them remember them.

Prayer Time

This is a good time to help your children learn about prayer. Remind the children that Jesus spent time in the desert praying to God. Ask for prayer requests and give them an opportunity to pray (whether silent or out loud).

Snack Time/CleanUp

Mission Arlington always has many kinds of sweets and goodies.

Planning for January 19
Jesus chooses His Disciples
Matthew 4:18-25

Preschool Lesson
for
Jesus is tempted

Bring several objects to show as you tell the story today:

Rock

Slice of Bread

Little box (for a church)

Little figure to be Jesus—could be a twisted pipecleaner, clothespin from last week or paper cutout.

Jesus went into the hot desert to pray. He stayed there a long time and He got very hungry. He had not eaten anything because He was trying to listen to God and do what He said. His tummy must have rumbled a lot!

Suddenly, the devil came and told Jesus to turn a rock into bread so He would not be hungry (show the rock and bread). Jesus did not listen to the devil. He knew that the devil was trying to get Him to do something wrong. Instead, Jesus said a Bible verse. He told the devil it was more important to do what God says.

Then, the devil took Jesus to the top of the church (show the little box or picture of a church). He dared Jesus to jump off. The devil told Jesus that angels would catch Him. But Jesus told the devil that God did not want us to test Him. So, Jesus did not do wrong. (Kids, we cannot jump off buildings. We would get hurt and go to the hospital if we tried to do this.)

Again, the devil tried to get Jesus to do wrong. He took Jesus to a high mountain (find a high place in the room or stand up with the Jesus figure). Jesus could see everything all around. The devil told Him that He could have everything He saw if He bowed down to the devil. Jesus would not bow down. He told the devil to go away! He told him that we are to worship God and do only what He says.

Jesus had 3 chances to do wrong. Did He? NO! Jesus did the right thing each time. Jesus always did what was right. He must have had to pray a lot to make sure He was doing just what God wanted.

Sometimes we may be tempted to do the wrong thing. God wants us to do right! Jesus helps us know how important it is to do good and not evil.

Let's pray and ask God to help us do good things this week and not bad things.

Hands-on Activities for Jesus is tempted

Bring shaving cream, 2 bowls and towels. Squirt shaving cream into one bowl. Let each person squirt a little into his/her hands. Now rub hands together. Compare the dirty cream with the “pure” cream in the bowl. Share how “sin” makes us dirty on the inside. Explain that Jesus can help us remove the dirt when we believe in Him and trust Him with our lives.

Bring a clear glass, water and dirt. Pour the clean water into the glass. Now add the dirt. Ask the kids if they can get the dirt completely out of the water. Share how we are the same way when we sin; we become dirty on the inside. We, by ourselves can never make ourselves clean again. Jesus is the only One who can clean us of our sin.

Talk about what it means to be tempted and what it means to do wrong—sin. Share some experiences from your life. If you have older kids, bring articles from the paper or magazines that show people that were tempted and what decisions they made. Talk about alternatives they had.

Try to make a big frieze (mural) and let the kids have fun drawing their illustrations of Jesus being tempted and resisting the temptation.

Try helping the kids learn this little rap about the story (to the tune of We will, we will rock you)

Jesus was a cool dude forty days without food,
devil tried to tempt Him, but that's ok
He's got love on His face, no disgrace
He's spreading His love all over the place
saying, “We will, we will, do right”
saying, “We will, we will, do right.”

See if they can make up more verses about the story!
(Several girls from one of the Bible studies made up this verse.)