

Lesson 6

Jesus Stands the Test

Bible Text: Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus uses the Word of God to withstand temptation.

Bible Truth: Knowing God's Word helps me make right choices.

Bible Verse: I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
Psalm 119:11 (NIV)

For the Teacher

Jesus, the Son of God, was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil to sin against God. Jesus relied on the power and truth of God's Word to be victorious over Satan and his temptations. Let us follow Jesus' example and learn the Word of God so we can resist all temptation.

LESSON SEGMENT	TIME	SEGMENT DESCRIPTION	SUPPLIES & PREPARATION
Focus on God's Word	10 min.	Object Lesson: Don't Feed the Bears!	Stuffed toy bear, picture of real bear.
Learn God's Word	17 min.	Matthew 4:1-11	Visual 6, calendar, piece of bread, stone, picture of the Temple, globe or world map.
Memorize God's Word	8 min.	Object Lesson: It's so Tempting! Bible Verse: Psalm 119:11 Bible Verse Activity: Hidden in My Heart	Box of donuts or a snack. Make a heart-shaped pocket from red cardstock. Write the words of Psalm 119:11 on separate strips of paper.
Bible Truth	5 min.	Knowing God's Word helps me make right choices.	Motions (see lesson).
Connect With God's Word	15 min.	Prayer Response	Discussion time. Board for writing.
Act on God's Word	15 min.	Craft: God's Word in My Heart	2 paper hearts per child, stapler, tape, paper strips, string.
Review God's Word	5 min.	Review Questions Review Activity: Circle Review Game: Choose God's Word	On 2 large containers write "Temptation." Fill with rocks (real or Styrofoam pellets). On 2 small empty containers write "My Heart." Write "God's Word" on 10 cards. Hide 5 cards in each of the 2 large containers.



FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

Object Lesson: Don't Feed the Bears!

(For this activity, you will need a stuffed toy bear and a picture of a real bear.)

Last week Tommy went on a school trip to the zoo. His class stopped at the bear enclosure. The bears looked really cute. There was a big sign on the fence. **DON'T FEED THE BEARS!** But they looked so cuddly! Tommy really wanted to put his hand through the fence and feel the soft fur. "Don't be tempted Tommy," his teacher said. Being tempted is when we want to do something we know we should not do.

(Hold up and cuddle the toy bear.) Does this bear look dangerous? (Allow responses.) No, stuffed bears are not alive. They're not dangerous. They're just fun to have and to cuddle.

(Show a picture of a real bear.) Can you hold this bear and pet it? (Allow responses.) Real bears look cuddly, but in fact, they're dangerous. They could hurt you or even kill you.

When Satan tries to tempt us to do something that is wrong, he lies and tries to make us think that doing that wrong thing is like playing with the toy bear. It won't hurt us. But sin is like a real bear. It's dangerous and it will hurt you if you mess with it. Today we'll learn how Jesus was tempted, and what secret weapon He used to fight back.



LEARN GOD'S WORD

(Suggestion: Use the following objects to illustrate the lesson: a calendar, a piece of bread, a stone, a picture of the Temple, and a globe or a world map.)

Jesus was now about 30 years old, and He was ready to start His public ministry helping people. But Satan did not want Jesus to help people. He was going to try to get Jesus to do something wrong and to make some bad choices. Let's find out what happened.

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness so that Satan could test Him. *(Display visual 6.)* Jesus stayed there for 40 days and 40 nights. *(Show the calendar and have the kids count out 40 days.)* That's a long time, and Jesus didn't eat anything at all. When the 40 days were up, He was very hungry. Can you imagine not eating for 40 days? You would probably eat the first thing you saw, no matter what it was! Jesus was hungry, and Satan knew it. He would try to tempt Jesus to make a wrong choice.

Satan said to Jesus, "If you are really the Son of God, turn these stones into bread." *(Show the stone and some bread.)* Now, for us that would be impossible. We couldn't possibly turn stones into bread! But for Jesus, that would have been so easy! And why not? After all, He was hungry. He had the power to make the stones turn into bread and not be hungry anymore. Did Jesus do it? No, He didn't! Jesus used His secret weapon to make the right choice when He was tempted.

Jesus told Satan, "It is written in God's Word, 'No one can live on just bread. People need every word that God has spoken.'" Jesus wasn't going to let Satan tempt Him to show off

and use His power to get food. That would be wrong, so He used God's Word to fight Satan and resist that temptation.

Satan had failed. So, he tried another way. Has anyone ever dared you to do something to prove you are not afraid? Maybe they said, "If you're so smart, I dare you to drive your Dad's car." Or "If you're so brave, I dare you to swim across the river." *(Allow responses.)* It's tempting to prove we can do things so others will think we're special. Satan tempted Jesus with a dare. He took Jesus to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest part of the Temple. *(Show the picture of the Temple.)*

Satan said to Jesus, "If you're God's Son, jump off the Temple. The Bible says, 'God will tell His angels to catch you in their arms, and you won't hurt your feet on the stones.'" Jesus knew that Satan was tempting Him to test God and once again He used God's Word to fight Satan. He said, "It is also written in God's Word, 'Don't try to test the Lord your God!'" Jesus knew that it is wrong to expect God to protect us when we do foolish things on purpose.

Satan had failed twice, but he wasn't ready to quit. Satan tried a third time to tempt Jesus to sin. He took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world full of wonderful things. *(Show the globe or the world map.)*

Satan said to him, "I will give all this to you, if you will bow down and worship me." This was a hard test. Jesus knew that God had promised Him that one day He would rule everything. But first, He must suffer and die for people's sins. What do you think was tempting about Satan's offer? *(Allow responses.)* If Jesus worshipped Satan instead of God, He could rule over all the nations right now without having to suffer on the cross first. But that was not God's plan for Jesus.

Did Jesus give in to Satan this time? No! Jesus said, "Go away Satan! For it is written in God's Word, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'" Jesus was not about to worship Satan. Jesus had beaten Satan three times with God's Word. After that, Satan left Jesus alone, and God sent angels to help Jesus.



MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

Object Lesson: It's so Tempting!

Supplies: A box of donuts or another tasty snack.

We are all tempted at times to do something we know is wrong. If we give in to temptation, then that becomes sin. Let's play a game to see how temptation works. *Place the snack box open in front of the kids.*

Say: Here's the rule. You must not look at the box. Don't think about it or talk about it. Satan tried to get Jesus to do something He knew was wrong. How did Jesus beat Satan? *(Allow responses.)* Each time Jesus was tempted, He used God's Word to fight Satan. Knowing God's Word, the Bible, will also help us make right choices and not give in to temptation and sin.

Listen to our Bible verse for today. *(Point to the board and read Psalm 119:11.)*

**Bible Verse: I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
Psalm 119:11**

What does it mean to hide God's word in our hearts? (Allow responses.) It means to know it and memorize it. How can hiding God's Word in our heart help us not to sin? (Allow responses.) The Word of God tells us what is right and wrong. If we know what it says, we know what pleases God and what doesn't. Knowing God's Word helps us make right choices. That's why we need to make God's Word part of our life. We memorize God's Word so it can help us to live right.

Let's say the verse together.

Spend a few minutes learning the Bible verse. As the kids say it, glance at the box or walk near it, trying to catch a child looking at it. Have fun by calling out those kids you catch looking at the box.

Then say: Okay. You may now look in the box, but you may not touch or eat what is inside. Remember. No Touching. No Eating.

Pass the box around and say the Bible verse again. Have the kids sniff the tempting snack.

After a few minutes say "Well done! You obeyed my word. You didn't touch or eat. Did you think about touching and eating the snack? (Allow responses.) Sure, you did. You were tempted and wanted to disobey, but the important thing is that you didn't give in to temptation. Now you can enjoy a snack!" (Give the kids a snack.)

Bible Verse Activity: Hidden in My Heart

Make a large heart-shaped pocket by stapling together two pieces of red cardstock cut into heart shapes. Write each word of Psalm 119:11 on separate pieces of paper. Lay them out in order on a table along with the heart pocket. Have the kids say the verse out loud together and then ask one child to come and choose a word and hide it in the heart pocket. Continue until all the words are in the heart and the kids have learned the verse.



BIBLE TRUTH

Bible Truth: Knowing God's Word helps me make right choices.

Have the kids say the Bible Truth with motions.

Knowing (Use your hands to point to both sides of your head.)

God's Word (Use both hands to make an open Bible.)

helps me make (Make a fist with your right hand into the palm of your left hand.)

right choices (Make two thumbs up signs.)



CONNECT WITH GOD'S WORD

Temptation can come from the outside when someone tries to get you to do something wrong. Or they offer you something you know you shouldn't have. How do you fight temptation? Speak God's word!

Temptation can also come from inside you. For example: You really want something. You think about stealing it. What can you do? Just tell yourself “NO. God’s Word says, ‘Do not steal!’”

What are some things that kids are tempted by? (*Encourage the kids to name things that they have been tempted to do (such as stealing, lying, cheating on schoolwork, blaming someone else for something they did wrong, etc.).*)

Being tempted is not a sin. It becomes a sin when we give up and do what we are tempted to do even though we know it is wrong. When you are tempted by something, what can you do about it? (*Say God’s Word!*)

Jesus understands how we feel when we are tempted because He was also tempted. But Jesus did not give in to Satan. He used God’s Word to fight the devil (that’s Satan) when he tried to tempt Him. Knowing God’s Word will help us fight temptation. Jesus will give us strength to say NO to Satan if we quickly ask for help when we are tempted to make a wrong choice.

Prayer Response

Pray for all the kids, asking God to help them when they are tempted to do wrong. Then have them pray the following prayer out loud after you.

Dear God, Thank You for your Word, the Bible. Help me to hide Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You. Help me to know Your Word and make right choices. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Have them quietly pray and ask God to help them with a specific temptation they struggle with.

Leading a Child to Jesus: As the Holy Spirit leads, explain the plan of salvation and pray with those who want to accept Jesus as their Savior. (See Teacher’s Guide p.3 Leading a Child to Jesus.)



ACT ON GOD’S WORD

Craft: God’s Word in my Heart

Supplies: 2 hearts cut from red paper for each child, strip of paper, stapler, tape, string cut to make necklaces.

Give each child 2 red paper hearts. Have them staple the hearts together to make a pocket. Have the kids write the Bible verse (Psalm 119:11) on a strip of paper and place it in the pocket. Tape strings to the pocket so they can wear it like a necklace and take God’s Word home with them.



REVIEW GOD'S WORD

Review Questions

1. Where did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus? (Into the wilderness)
2. How long did Jesus stay in the desert without eating? (40 days)
3. Who tempted Jesus to sin? (Satan)
4. How did Jesus resist being tempted by Satan? (He spoke God's Word.)
5. What was Satan's first temptation? (He told Jesus to turn rocks into bread.)
6. Why was it wrong for Jesus to do that? (Jesus knew it is wrong to do what Satan says.)
7. What did Satan try to get Jesus to do when they went up on the Temple? (Jump off.)
8. Satan told Jesus he would give Him all the nations of the world if Jesus would do what? (Bow down and worship Satan.)
9. How can we fight temptation and not sin? (Know God's Word. Hide God's Word in our hearts.)

Review Activity: Circle Review

Have the kids sit in a circle and number off 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3. Choose a child to stand in the middle and remove his chair. Ask that child a review question. If he answers correctly, he may call out 1 or 2 or 3. If he calls 2, for example, all the kids with number 2 must jump up and change seats. The child in the middle also tries to get a seat. Ask the child who remains standing the next review question. If he cannot answer the question, ask all the kids who know the answer to raise their hands. Choose one of them to answer. He will switch places with the child in the middle and call a new number.

Game: Choose God's Word

Preparation: Write "**Temptation**" on 2 large containers and fill them with rocks (or foam pellets). Write "**God's Word**" on 5 cards and hide them in with the rocks. Write "**My Heart**" on 2 small containers.

Place the two "**Temptation**" containers at one end of the room. Place the two empty "**My Heart**" containers at the other end of the room. Tell the kids the rocks represent temptation. Hidden in the "**Temptation**" containers are 5 "**God's Word**" cards.

Divide the kids into 2 teams and have them line up by the 2 empty containers. When you say "Go!" the first person on each team must run to a "**Temptation**" container and dig through the rocks for a "**God's Word**" card then run back to their team.

After they drop "**God's Word**" in the empty "**My Heart**" container, the next team member goes. The first team to find all 5 "**God's Word**" cards wins.

*When the game is finished, say: **Great job choosing "God's Word!" When Jesus was tempted, He spoke God's Word and made the right choice. Jesus always did the right thing. With His help, we can do the right thing, too!***