

LESSON 6

The Temptation of Jesus

LUKE 4:1-13



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS WAS TEMPTED, BUT HE DID NOT SIN

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 4:1–13 from the Scriptures or read story 84, “The Temptation of Jesus,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

Three Objects, Three Temptations

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a loaf of cinnamon raisin bread (hot out of an oven if possible)
- ✓ a handful of coins in a jar or clear plastic bag
- ✓ a sheriff’s or policeman’s badge (the more realistic it looks, the better)

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Temptation Is All around You

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a carton of milk
- ✓ a batch of mini chocolate chip cookies (You can use the cinnamon raisin bread from the previous object lesson in place of the cookies.)
- ✓ small paper cups and napkins

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 6—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Bring on Temptation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a twenty-dollar bill
- ✓ a chocolate bar
- ✓ two fake event tickets (could be tickets to a sporting event or a concert)
- ✓ an adult helper to play the role of the tempter

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Man does not live by bread alone—Moses spoke these words to Israel in his farewell address as they stood ready to enter the Promised Land. In the desert, God provided manna to teach his people that they do not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Israel’s wanderings were meant to humble them and to test them to see if they would obey God’s commands. Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy to rebuke Satan and to signal that he would succeed where Israel failed. As the sinless Son of Israel, Jesus obeyed God and did not sin.

You shall only worship God—Satan asked Jesus to worship him. Israel had failed to worship God alone, but Jesus refused Satan’s temptation, rebuking him firmly with these words from Deuteronomy: “You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve” (Luke 4:8).

You shall not put the Lord to the test—Satan saved his most devious trick for last. First, he tempted Christ with food and immediate pleasure. Second, he tempted Christ with a shortcut to power. And finally, he tempted Christ with the Word of God. Satan quotes from Psalm 91:11, 12. Essentially he was saying, “If your Word is true, prove it.” Jesus saw right through Satan’s scheme and rebuked him a third time, quoting Deuteronomy 6:16. Defeated, the devil left Jesus until an “opportune time.” That time would come when Satan entered Judas’s heart, and Judas betrayed Jesus. What Satan did not count on was that God is always in control and was even using Satan’s manipulations to accomplish God’s predetermined plan.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

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 from Luke 4 that Jesus quoted are all from the account of Israel's 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!

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 4:1–13 from the Scriptures or read story 84, "The Temptation of Jesus," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

Three Objects, Three Temptations

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a loaf of cinnamon raisin bread (hot out of an oven if possible)
- ✓ a handful of coins in a jar or clear plastic bag
- ✓ a sheriff's or policeman's badge (the more realistic it looks, the better)

Set the objects on a table in front of the class. Read through the story and then ask the children if they can guess which temptation is represented by the objects and why.

Bread represents the temptation for food. In a larger way this represents all the good things we crave in life that we can love more than God: a nice house, a nice bike, clothes, or even something more abstract like control or ease.

Coins represent false worship. Jesus said we cannot serve both God and money. We will love the one and hate the other. Satan tried to trick Jesus into worshiping him by promising the wealth of the world. People who would normally not do something evil may do it if they get enough money. “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils” (1 Timothy 6:10). Jesus was offered the whole world yet could not be bought.

The badge represents power and authority. Satan tempted Jesus to demonstrate his power and authority. Pass the badge around. Ask the children what power it conveys. The Bible tells us that Jesus didn’t strive for power but made himself nothing—he didn’t need to prove himself to anyone (Philippians 2:6–7).

Ask the children which thing might tempt them the most. Ask them if any of them were tempted to try and snatch a piece of the bread. Then slice the bread and pray, thanking God for providing for our physical and spiritual needs. Hand it out to the class.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **15 MIN**

Temptation Is All around You

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a carton of milk
- ✓ a batch of mini chocolate chip cookies (You can use the cinnamon raisin bread from the previous object lesson in place of the cookies.)
- ✓ small paper cups and napkins

This activity is designed to help the children experience how desires can lead us to be tempted. (Be sure to check for any food allergies among the children and provide an alternative snack for this exercise if necessary.)

Pour a glass of milk and hand it to a student. Ask her to tell you how tempted she is to drink the milk. Tell her to call out a number from one (least tempted) to ten (most tempted). Have her pass the glass to the next person who will do the same thing: call out a number.

After the glass of milk has gone around to every student, set it aside. Now give everyone a cookie on a napkin, but instruct them not to eat it. Go around the class again and have everyone give a number from one to ten to express how tempted they are to eat their cookie. After they report their number, give half the class permission to eat their cookie. Ask the other half if their level of temptation is getting higher. Ask them how they would feel if you asked them to now return their cookies to you. Give the rest of the class permission to eat their cookies.

Now pass the glass of milk again and ask them again to call out the number from one to ten to describe how badly they want a sip of milk. Have their levels of temptation gone up?

Explain to the class that temptation (a desire for something) does not need to be sinful. For example, it is OK to be tempted to eat a cookie, but not OK to eat your neighbor's cookie or steal a second one from the teacher.

Explain to the class that when we want something too much (more than God), we will obey those desires over God. In this case, stealing someone's cookie would be obeying our desire for another cookie over God's command not to steal.

■ **What can we learn from Jesus' example about how to fight temptation?**

(Use the Word of God to fight temptation.)

Ask one of the children to pray that God would help the class fight temptation. End by offering all the children another glass of milk and another cookie. Talk to the children about the amazing way Jesus avoided the snares of the devil.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

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.

ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 6—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **In the picture, who is holding a rock in their hand?**
(Satan is the one whose back is turned to us with the rock in his hand.)
- **What is Satan telling Jesus, who is very hungry, to do with the rocks?**
(He is tempting Jesus to turn the rocks into bread so he would have something to eat. But Jesus didn't listen to him.)
- **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.)
- **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 by naming a few ways you think children might be tempted.)

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **10 MIN**

Bring on Temptation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a twenty-dollar bill
- ✓ a chocolate bar
- ✓ two fake event tickets (could be tickets to a sporting event or a concert)
- ✓ an adult helper to play the role of the tempter

In the middle of class at a prearranged time have your tempter knock on your door and try to tempt you to leave the children and go to some event (a sporting event or concert). You should say that you can't just leave the children but that you have to stay and teach the class.

Your tempter should explain that everyone else he has asked has told him they need to remain in church and he hates to go alone. At that point he should offer you the chocolate bar. Tell him that you can't just leave the children...or could you? Think out loud, pretending to be torn, but finally fight off the temptation and say no.

Finally your tempter should pull out the twenty-dollar bill and lay the temptation on thick by offering to give you the money. He might remind you of all the great food you could buy with it. In the end, refuse and send him on his way. Use this little skit to help stimulate conversation and how we can be tempted just like Jesus was. Ask the children to come up with ways your temptation was like Jesus' temptation. Ask them if they know any Bible verses you could have used in your defense. (They should suggest Deuteronomy 8:3, and if they don't, prompt them to consider it.)

End your time by helping them discover different ways they are tempted.

LESSON 6 - THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

