

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**

Find the Quotes

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bibles—at least one for every three students

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

My Word Is Real Food

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ one photocopy of the page of the Bible containing the underlined text of Deuteronomy 8:3, cut to fit in a sandwich
- ✓ Bible
- ✓ peanut butter and jelly (Note: Substitute something else for peanut butter if anyone in class has a peanut allergy.)
- ✓ two slices of bread
- ✓ a table knife
- ✓ a plate

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

7. ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Drawing Temptation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencil and paper

LESSON SNAPSHOT

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 30 MIN

Pantomime the Temptation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ one loaf of bread
- ✓ three dollar bills
- ✓ two small dumbbells (Alternatively cut dumbbells out of cardboard. Write “500 lbs” on each side to make the point.)
- ✓ a length of rope
- ✓ a globe or world map
- ✓ a stepladder
- ✓ slips of paper numbered 1 through 6
- ✓ cup

TOTAL 90 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Synagogue

The word “synagogue” comes from the Greek word that means a gathering of people. With the defeat of Israel and Roman control, the synagogue emerged as a place where the Law could be read and preserved. It served as a gathering place for believers, much like our churches do today. It was a community building where other activities took place as well. Paul often took the gospel to the synagogues in the cities he visited. Luke 4:16–28 is the earliest account of a synagogue worship service. Later, after the destruction of the temple, the sacrificial system would end and the synagogue would serve as the sole gathering place for Jews.

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

Find the Quotes

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Bibles—at least one for every three students

Divide the class into teams of three. Have them all read Luke 4:1–13. Explain to the class that Jesus quoted from the Old Testament account about how Israel wandered in the desert. Ask them if they remember the story and ask for a few details.

Tell the class that each team is on a hunt to find the quotes in Deuteronomy 6—8 that Jesus used to defeat Satan’s attacks. Tell the teams that when you say Go they should begin to search and raise a hand when they find one of the lines Jesus quoted. Tell the class to read carefully because they are not all exact quotes. (Deuteronomy 6:13, 16; 8:3)

Then ask the children the following questions:

- **What is the significance of Jesus spending forty days in the desert?**
(The forty days were symbolic of the forty years Israel wandered in the desert.)
- **How did Israel fail?**
(Israel failed by complaining [Numbers 11:1] and serving idols [Exodus 32:4].)
- **How was Jesus different from Israel?**
(Jesus would have been very hungry after fasting forty days, but still he did not look for satisfaction in food but in God. When tempted by the devil to worship something other than God his Father, Jesus refused. While they waited for Moses to return from the mountain, Israel gave in to the temptation to make and worship an idol in the shape of a calf.)
- **Why was it important for Jesus to succeed where Israel failed?**
(Jesus was living the perfect life that none of us could live. His sacrifice for us would not have been effective if he had not been sinless.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

My Word Is Real Food

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ one photocopy of the page of the Bible containing the underlined text of Deuteronomy 8:3, cut to fit in a sandwich
- ✓ Bible
- ✓ peanut butter and jelly (Note: Substitute something else for peanut butter if anyone in class has a peanut allergy.)
- ✓ two slices of bread

- ✓ a table knife
- ✓ a plate

Explain to the class that you noticed that Jesus quoted from Moses in Deuteronomy 8:3, which says, “Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”

Tell the class you have been studying the Scriptures and know how you can never be hungry again. (Open your Bible and read John 4:31–34 to the class.) Reread verse 34 and tell them this verse says Jesus didn’t have to eat when he was obeying God. Here in today’s passage, you discovered that God’s will for your life is found in his Word. So, if you eat the word of God, you won’t get hungry again.

Then proceed to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, placing the photocopied verse on top of the peanut butter side, and close the sandwich. Now really ham it up for the class. Take a bite and swallow the piece of paper you bit off. (A little paper won’t hurt you. If you prefer, take a bite that does not contain the paper—just pretend to eat the paper.) Then complain that you still feel hungry. Put the sandwich down and ask the class if they think you did something wrong. Pretend to feel a little sick and ask the class if they know the true meaning to those Scriptures (John 4:31–34; Deuteronomy 8:3).

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

Drawing Temptation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ pencil and paper

Draw a picture of the temptation you think would have been the most difficult for you if you had been tempted instead of Jesus. When everyone is finished, have a few children share why they drew the particular temptation they did.

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON **30 MIN**

Pantomime the Temptation

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ one loaf of bread
- ✓ three dollar bills
- ✓ two small dumbbells (Alternatively cut dumbbells out of cardboard. Write "500 lbs" on each side to make the point.)
- ✓ a length of rope
- ✓ a globe or world map
- ✓ a stepladder
- ✓ slips of paper numbered 1 through 6
- ✓ cup

Number the items in the supply list from one through six. Divide the class up into six teams. Fold the slips of paper and place them in a cup. Have each team draw a number from the cup to tell them which prop they will use to create a pantomime of one of the three temptations. Everyone must participate in some way. Give the teams ten minutes to work out their skit, and then reassemble the class. Put on the pantomimes and see if the class can guess which temptation is being acted out.

Review the passage and discuss with the class the greatest temptations older grade school students face. Point them back to what Jesus did on the cross as the solution to the fight against temptation.