

## Jesus Was Tempted

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 4:1-11

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus was tempted.

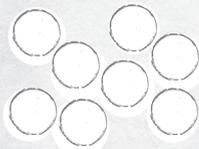
**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Timothy 1:15

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.

### SMALL GROUP OPENING

(15–20 MINUTES)

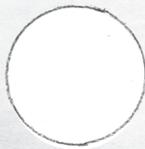
PAGE 70



### LARGE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

(10–15 MINUTES)

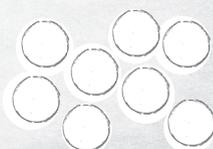
PAGE 72



### SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

(20–25 MINUTES)

PAGE 74



## Leader BIBLE STUDY

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness. Jesus fasted for 40 days, and He was hungry. There in the wilderness, the Devil, who is the agent of temptation and father of lies, appeared to Jesus. The Devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

*If You are the Son of God? The Devil knew who Jesus was. He challenged Jesus to prove it. The Devil wanted to ruin God's plan of redemption which was set in motion in Genesis 3. In the garden of Eden, Satan used a seemingly innocent question to arouse doubt in Eve: “Did God really say, ‘You can't eat from any tree in the garden?’” (Gen. 3:1).*

Adam and Eve ate the fruit God had forbidden them to eat, and sin entered the world.

Jesus came to reverse the curse, to succeed where Adam failed. The Devil's aim was to use a similar trick as in Eden to get Jesus to sin, to disqualify Him from the role of sinless Savior.

The Devil targeted Jesus in His weakness. He tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread, to put Himself in danger, and to worship him as a way to fulfill His mission without going to the cross. "Go away, Satan!" Jesus replied.

The writer of Hebrews said that Jesus, our high priest, can sympathize with our weaknesses because He was tested in every way we are, yet He never sinned. Jesus' actions are an example for believers, but what happens when we do give in to temptation?

Emphasize to preschoolers that we can boldly approach God's throne to receive grace to help us through temptation, and mercy and forgiveness when we sin (See Heb. 4:14-16.) We have hope because Christ died for sinners.



# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

## Jesus Was Tempted

*Matthew 4:1-11*

- **Use props:** Provide various Bible story items to display during Jesus' temptation, such as a large rock, a picture of the temple, and a decorative box with jewels and gold coins.
- **Make it interactive:** Invite preschoolers who have brought their Bibles to hold them up every time Jesus says "The Bible says."

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. Jesus stayed in the wilderness for many days. He prayed to God and thought about God's plan for His life. **Jesus did not eat anything while He was in the wilderness, and He was very hungry.**

**The Devil came to tempt Jesus. He tried to get Jesus to do wrong things. The Devil said, "If You are really God's Son, tell these stones to become bread."**

If Jesus used His power to turn the stones into bread, He could eat the bread. Then He wouldn't be hungry anymore. But Jesus said no. He trusted God to give Him what He needed. Then **Jesus said, "This is what the Bible says: Man must not live only on bread, but on all the words that God says."**

Jesus did not sin, so **the Devil tried again. He took Jesus to the city of Jerusalem, and they went to the top of the temple. The Devil said, "If You are really God's Son, prove it. Jump off the top of the temple. God will protect You."**

**Then the Devil said, "This is what the Bible says: God will order His angels to keep You safe, and they will protect You so that You will not even trip on a stone."**

Again, Jesus said no. **Jesus knew the Devil was trying to trick Him by misusing God's words.** The Devil was being foolish. **Jesus said, "The Bible also says: Do not test God."**

**Finally, the Devil took Jesus to a high mountain.** They could see land stretched out far and wide. The kingdoms in the land were great. **The Devil said, "Look! I will give You**

**all the money and power of these great kingdoms. All You have to do is fall down and worship me!”**

**Jesus said no! “Go away!” He said. “The Bible says: Only worship God, and only serve God.”**

**So the Devil went away. Angels came to help Jesus and serve Him. In all of these things, Jesus never sinned.**

*Christ Connection: Satan tried to get Jesus to sin, but Jesus did not sin. Jesus always did the right thing. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin. When we are tempted to sin, we can ask Jesus to help us say no to sin.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD'S WORD?  
GET  
MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week's devotionals to discover that Jesus was tempted and never sinned. As a result, Jesus is the perfect sacrifice to take away sin. Jesus is Lord of all. (Acts 10:36) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).

# Small Group OPENING

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Was Tempted

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 4:1-11

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus was tempted.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Timothy 1:15

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.

---

## Welcome time

- "What Makes Jesus Different" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

## Activity page

- "Find the Hidden Food" activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Lead preschoolers to use the key to find and circle the foods hidden in the picture.

**SAY** • You found all the foods hidden in the picture! After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. Jesus stayed in the wilderness for many days. He prayed to God and thought about God's plan for His life. Jesus did not eat anything while He was in the wilderness, and He was very hungry. The Devil came to tempt Jesus. Listen to what happened in today's Bible story.

LOW PREP

- paper
- marker
- tape

## Play a key passage game

Gather a sheet of a paper for each word of the key passage in your preferred translation. Write each word on a separate

sheet as well as the number that corresponds to that word's location in the key passage. Post the sheets of paper around the room. Assist a preschooler as he walks around the room gently tapping the words of the key passage in order as you and the group say the words aloud. Give each preschooler a chance to say the key passage. Then walk around the room saying the key passage as a group.

**SAY** • We are memorizing God's words in the Bible! Our key passage reminds us that Jesus came into the world to save sinners. In today's Bible story, we will see just how important it is to know what the Bible says. Listen to our Bible story to find out how Jesus used God's Word against the Devil's tricks!

## One-two-three bean art

Provide a piece of construction paper and a handful of beans for each child. Write large numbers 1, 2, and 3 with white glue on each child's paper. Help the children place their beans on the glue lines. Use wet wipes for cleanup.

**SAY** • In today's Bible story, the Devil tried to get Jesus to do wrong things. He tempted Jesus to sin one, two, three times! Do you think Jesus did what the Devil told Him to do? Listen to the Bible story to find out!

- construction paper
- uncooked beans
- white glue
- wet wipes

## Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Lead children to jump to Bible study as if they were jumping over an imaginary stone.

- countdown video (optional)

# Large Group LEADER

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Was Tempted

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 4:1-11

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus was tempted.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Timothy 1:15

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.

---

## Introduce the Bible story

Sample questions:

- Have you ever taken a toy from a friend?
- Have you ever hit your brother or sister?
- Have you ever told your parents no when they asked you to do something?

Ask children a series of questions about temptations that preschoolers face. Encourage them to nod to answer *yes* and shake their heads to answer *no*.

**SAY** • Often we are tempted to do things when we know we should not. Sometimes we end up doing those wrong things anyway. In today's Bible story, Jesus was tempted to do wrong things. But guess what? Jesus never sinned. Let's listen to the Bible story.

## Watch or tell the Bible story

Place a bookmark at Matthew 4 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** • The Bible is God's true words. In today's Bible story, we will see why it is so important that we know and love the Bible. Our Bible story comes from Matthew.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling helps. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

## Talk about the Bible story

**SAY** • The Devil tried to trick Jesus into doing wrong things while He was in the wilderness. **Jesus was**

- Bible
- bookmark
- "Jesus Was Tempted" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

**tempted**, but Jesus never disobeyed God. Jesus always did the right thing. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin. When we are tempted to sin, we can ask Jesus to help us say no to sin.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Who led Jesus into the wilderness? (*the Holy Spirit*)
2. What did Jesus eat in the wilderness? (*nothing*)
3. Who tempted Jesus in the wilderness? (*the Devil*)
4. What did the Devil tell Jesus to do? (*turn stones into bread, jump off a high place, worship him*)
5. Did Jesus sin? (*No, Jesus was tempted but He always obeyed God.*)

## Learn the big picture question

**SAY** • *What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.* Jesus is the only Man who was tempted and never sinned. Only God's Son could do that! Because Jesus never sinned, we can go to Him for forgiveness when we do give in to temptation.

• Big Picture Question Poster

## Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to 1 Timothy 1:15. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "Into the World."

• Key Passage Poster  
• "Into the World" song

**SAY** • Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Jesus knows what it is like to live in the world and be tempted. He knew we were sinners and needed to be saved. When we are tempted to sin, we can ask Jesus to help us say no to sin.

## Transition to small groups

# Small Group ACTIVITIES

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Was Tempted

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 4:1-11

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus was tempted.

**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Timothy 1:15

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.

---



## OK or go away

Explain that you will give children commands. If the command is something good to do, they will shout, "OK!" If the command is something bad to do, they will shout, "Go away!" Remind preschoolers that Jesus said, "Go away!" to the Devil when he told Jesus to worship him.

- Take a piece of candy from the grocery store shelf.
- Pull someone's hair if she won't give you her toy.
- Put on your shoes when your parents ask.
- Complain about your food.
- Help your younger brother put on his shoes.
- Put away your toys.
- Don't let your sister play with you and your friends.

**SAY** • Even when we know something is wrong, it is really hard to obey all the time. We can ask Jesus to help us say no to sin. **Jesus was tempted**, but He never sinned. He knows what it is like to be tempted, and He wants to help us. But when we do give in to temptation and sin, we can ask Jesus to forgive us and He will!

- Bible
- construction paper
- scissors
- marker

## Pick a verse, any verse

Before the session, ask other adult leaders to share their favorite Scripture verses with you. Write the references

to their favorite Scriptures along with your favorites on construction paper strips. Use the strips to mark the verses in your Bible. Invite children one at a time to open the Bible to a bookmark. Read the Bible verse aloud and invite the adult leader to tell children why the verse is one of their favorites.

**SAY** • The Bible is a precious gift that God has given us. Jesus loved the Bible. He loved the words in it because He knew the Bible is God's words. **Jesus was tempted** by the Devil to sin, but Jesus did not give in. Jesus listened to God's words instead of the Devil's words. This is why you and I must learn what the Bible says and memorize Bible verses. We want to care more about God's words than anyone else's.

## Make bread stones

Cover a table with a plastic tablecloth. Remove the crusts from slices of white bread. Tear the bread into small pieces. Place the bread pieces in a bowl. Gradually add two tablespoons of glue for every three slices of bread. Begin mixing the bread clay with a spoon and then use your hands. Use plastic gloves if you want to avoid messy hands. Knead the clay until it is a uniform consistency. Add more glue if the clay is crumbly. Add more bread if the clay is too sticky. You may add a few drops of paint to add color to the clay. Divide the clay evenly among preschoolers.

Lead children to shape their bread into stone shapes. Write the main point and a child's name on a ziplock bag. Place each child's bread stone in their ziplock bag.

**SAY** • **Jesus was tempted.** The Devil tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread. We made stones out of our bread! Jesus was hungry, but He chose to obey God. Jesus

- plastic tablecloth
- white bread, 3 slices per child
- plastic knife (adult-use)
- white glue
- spoon
- ziplock bags
- permanent marker (adult-use)
- plastic gloves (optional)
- washable paint (optional)

always did the right thing. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin.

## Sequence Bible story pictures

- Bible Story Picture Posters from Sessions 1-6

Set out the Bible story picture posters from the previous sessions in this unit along with this session's poster. Review each Bible story with preschoolers and invite them to put the pictures in order. Give assistance as needed.

**SAY • Jesus was tempted** but never sinned. Jesus used words from the Bible to help Him resist the Devil's tricks. Knowing stories from the Bible will help us say no when we are tempted, too. We can see how God helped His people in the Bible and know that God will help us, too. We also see stories where people did sin and give in to temptation, and God forgave them. Because Jesus never sinned, we can go to Him and be forgiven when we sin.

## Examine stones

- assortment of stones
- magnifying glasses

Set out an assortment of stones. Invite preschoolers to examine the different stones with magnifying glasses.

**SAY • Jesus was tempted** by the Devil in the wilderness. The Devil tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread. Could Jesus have turned stones like these into bread? Yes! The Devil tempted Jesus to jump off the temple. Could God have protected Jesus from harm? Yes! Jesus could have done those things, but He chose to obey God instead of giving in to the Devil's tricks. Jesus knew God's plan was for Him to die on the cross to rescue us from sin, and God's plan is always best. One day, Jesus will come back to earth and God will make Jesus King over everything!

## Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Serve bread and water for a snack. Remind preschoolers that Jesus did not eat anything while He was in the wilderness, and He was hungry. **Jesus was tempted** by the Devil to turn stones into bread, but Jesus did not give in. Jesus knew that God's words are more important than food.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

## Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a picture of Jesus standing on top of a mountain. Ask preschoolers the big picture question ***What makes Jesus different? Jesus is God's One and Only Son.*** Remind children that Jesus never sinned, not even once. Because Jesus lived a sinless life, He could take the punishment for sin. Pray for the children.

**SAY** • God, You sent Your Son to earth. Jesus was tempted so He understands what it is like for us when we are tempted. Help us to go to You for help to say no to sin. Give us a love for the Bible so we can use Your words to resist when we are tempted. Amen.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- books
- puzzles
- play dough
- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers*