

LESSON 6

The Temptation of Jesus

LUKE 4:1-13



BIBLE TRUTH

WHAT ISRAEL COULD NOT DO IN FORTY YEARS IN THE DESERT, JESUS DID IN FORTY DAYS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: a dollar bill or a piece of candy or a small toy

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 84)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 6—one for each child; markers or crayons

Not Living by Bread Alone

SUPPLIES: loaf of bread

Name the Temptations

SUPPLIES: bicycle helmet, Bible, loaf of bread

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn about the temptation of Jesus in the desert.

Bring to class a dollar bill or a piece of candy or a small toy.

■ **What did Satan do to Jesus in the desert?**

(He tempted him.)

Explain to the class that the Satan tried to get Jesus to do something wrong. That temptation is an idea that comes into our head that tries to get us to do something sinful.

Pull out a dollar bill (or a piece of candy or a toy) and show it to the class. Put it deep inside your pocket so it is not visible. Tell the class that most people would not be tempted to steal my money (candy, toy) because they are afraid of getting caught.

Then pull the dollar bill halfway out. Say to the class that some people might be tempted to try and grab it away from me even though it does not belong to them. Pull the bill out still farther so it is barely hanging on and pretend to be the voice of temptation saying something like, “Go ahead and steal it, no one will ever find out.”

Finally walk around the room and accidentally drop the dollar bill on the ground. Talk about how temptation is now very strong.

Explain to the class that the way we avoid temptation and falling into sin is by knowing and obeying God’s Word. Ask the children to tell you what God’s Word says about stealing. (God’s Word tells us stealing is wrong.)

Take time to pray and thank God for his Word, which can help us fight temptation. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 84, “The Temptation of Jesus,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **Where did the Spirit of God lead Jesus?**
(The Spirit of God led Jesus into the desert.)

- **What did Satan do to Jesus?**
(He tempted Jesus by commanding him to do things that would have been sinful for Christ to do. In Matthew's Gospel, Satan is actually called the "tempter.")

- **How did Jesus reply to the devil's temptations?**
(Jesus replied to each of the three temptations with the truth of God's Word.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

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

- **Why do you think Jesus went out into the wilderness with the Holy Spirit?**
(Jesus often went out into the wilderness to pray to his Father. The fact that he ate nothing for forty days and nights tells us that he was keeping his mind on his heavenly Father. Though he did not eat for all those days, the Spirit of God strengthened him.)

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!

- What do you call it when you do not eat for a period of time while you seek the Lord?
(fasting)
- Do people fast today?
(Yes, people still fast today.)

WORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the WORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

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 the children by giving them a few ways in which you think children might be tempted.)

Not Living by Bread Alone

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ loaf of bread

Note: in addition to the normal SWORD memory verse you can teach this verse to your children and have them memorize it by the end of your class.

Pass out a piece of bread to each child as you teach and help them memorize the following verse: “Man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD” (Deuteronomy 8:3b).

Help the class to see how God’s Word feeds our soul and sustains us spiritually and is our spiritual food, just as bread is our physical food.

Jesus quoted these words in reply to Satan’s first temptation. Explain to the class that in all of life we are to find our help and hope in the message of God’s Word. Also, any time we are tempted, if we learn the Word of God, we can use the Bible and what it teaches to resist the temptations of sin that come our way. Jesus was applying what he was teaching, that is, using the Word of God as his help.

Name the Temptations

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ bicycle helmet
- ✓ Bible
- ✓ loaf of bread

See if the children can recall Satan’s three temptations and how Jesus replied to them. If not, review them and have the children try again. You can use the following objects as visual clues to help the children remember the temptations: 1, loaf of bread; 2, Bible (tells us who to worship); 3, bicycle helmet to protect you in a fall.

1. “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” (Luke 4:3–4)
2. “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all

be yours.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’” (Luke 4:6–8)

3. “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (Luke 4:9–12)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

LESSON 6 - THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

