

Use Week of:

Unit 20 • Session 2

Jesus' Temptation

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4

STORY POINT:

Jesus was tempted and never sinned.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 3:30

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.



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LEADER Bible Study

Satan wants to ruin God's plan. In Genesis 3, he tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God. Sin entered the world, and the perfect relationship between God and man was broken. But all along, God had a plan to rescue His people through His Son. So when Jesus came to earth, Satan didn't back down. After Jesus was baptized—beginning His ministry and effectively declaring war on Satan—Satan tempted Jesus.

If Satan could just get Jesus to stray from God's perfect plan—if he could just get Jesus to sin—then Jesus would be disqualified to be the sinless Savior people needed. But Satan could not stop God's plan.

Jesus' temptation is not primarily an example to be followed but more a declaration of who Jesus is. He is the answer to God's promise of a descendant who would crush the head of the snake. (Gen. 3:15) Jesus is the perfect sacrifice required to take away sin. Where Adam failed, Jesus succeeded. Adam brought guilt and death to the human race, but Jesus brings forgiveness and life to all who trust in Him.

Even today, the devil works hard “to steal and kill and destroy” (John 10:10). Teach preschoolers that the power to resist temptation comes from Jesus. Preschoolers may struggle to understand that following Jesus won't mean instant eradication of sin and temptation in our lives. (Sanctification is a lifelong process!) Pray that the preschoolers you teach would see Jesus as their greatest treasure—more valuable than any instant gratification the world has to offer.

Finally, give preschoolers hope for when they fail. Jesus' perfect obedience is credited to those who trust in Him. Remind the preschoolers that “if we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). We can boldly approach God's throne to receive both grace and mercy when we need it. (See Heb. 4:14-16.)

The BIBLE Story

Jesus' Temptation

Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4

After Jesus was baptized, God's Spirit led Him 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.**

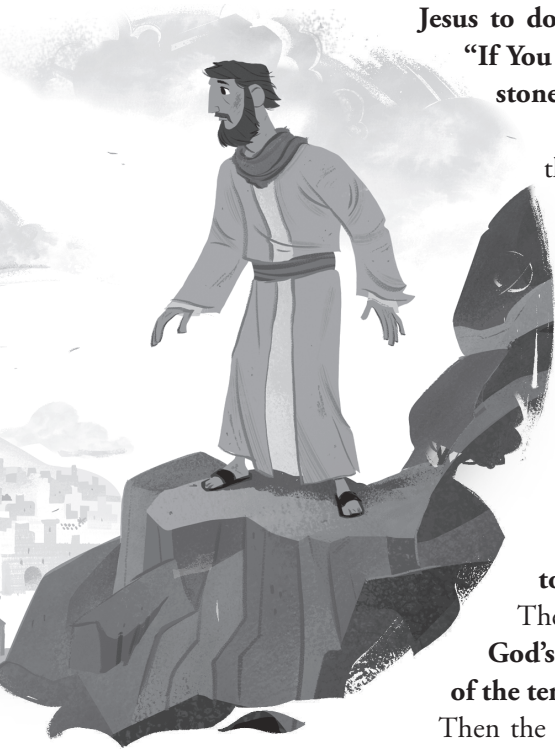
The devil came to tempt Jesus. He tried to get Jesus to do wrong things. The devil said, **"If You are really God's Son, tell these stones to become bread."**

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 top of the temple** in Jerusalem. 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, **"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."** That is what Psalm 91 says in the Bible.

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 where 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: The devil tried to get Jesus to sin, but Jesus never sinned. 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.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Count it out:** Use your fingers to count the three temptations with the preschoolers.
- **Emphasize the Bible:** Each time you tell how Jesus responded to temptation, hold up the Bible.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus' Temptation

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4

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KEY PASSAGE: John 3:30

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.

Welcome time

- "Take It to the Lord" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a 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

- "Into the Wilderness" activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Invite preschoolers to complete the maze to lead Jesus into the wilderness.

SAY • After Jesus was baptized, God's Spirit led Him 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. Listen to our Bible story to hear who came to see Jesus in the wilderness.

LOW PREP

- red construction paper
- green construction paper
- marker
- tape

Talk about yes and no

Write *yes* on a green sheet of paper and *no* on a red sheet. Tape the two papers on opposite walls. Point out each sign to children. Suggest situations where children should say "yes" and "no." Suggested situations include when you want to take something that belongs to someone else, when

you want to share a toy with a friend, when you want to hit your brother or sister, when you want to do what your mom or dad tell you to do, when you want to talk when your teacher is telling the Bible story, or when you want to pray to God. Encourage the children to move to the correct sign to answer. Allow preschoolers to take turns suggesting situation.

SAY • Sometimes we really want to do something that we know is wrong. We call that being tempted. In our Bible story today, we will hear what Jesus did when He was tempted.

Play with stones

Place a box of river stones on the floor. Encourage children to stack and balance the stones. Name things the stones would be good for, such as building a fireplace, putting on the road to keep it from getting muddy, and throwing in the lake to make a splash.

· box
· river stones

SAY • The stones are hard! They are different colors and sizes. You named a lot of things to do with stones. Do you think they would be good to eat? [*Allow preschoolers to respond.*] In our Bible story today, Jesus was hungry and the devil told Jesus to turn stones into bread. Listen to hear what Jesus said.

Transition to teach the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. As the children move to Bible study, tell them your favorite Bible verse. Ask them to share their favorite Bible story.

· countdown video
(optional)

TEACH the Story



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Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

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

SAY • Our Bible story today is in the Book of Luke. It is also in Matthew and Mark. Remember that those books are three of the Gospels that tell about Jesus' life. The Bible is true and teaches us about God and Jesus.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Jesus' Baptism" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

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

SAY • The devil tried three times to get Jesus to do wrong things, but Jesus did not do it. The devil's plan did not work! Jesus always does the right thing. **Jesus was tempted and never sinned.** We are sinners. We do wrong things a lot, but 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.

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at John 3:30. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Form three groups. Lead the first group to say the first phrase of the key passage, the second group to finish the verse and the third group to say the reference. Change parts until all groups have said all three parts.

SAY • *He* in our key passage is Jesus. John the Baptist said these words about Jesus. We can also say these words about Jesus and ourselves. Jesus is most important. He is the only One who ever obeyed God perfectly. We look to Him to save us, not anything we can do.

Sing the key passage song, “He Must Increase,” and the theme song, “Take It to the Lord.”

- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “He Must Increase (John 3:30)” song
- “Take It to the Lord” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.* Jesus can rescue us from sin because He always did the right thing. **Jesus was tempted and never sinned.**

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • Let me tell you a story about Betty Greene, the very first woman missionary pilot. She helped start the Mission Aviation Fellowship. MAF uses small airplanes to go to people who live in hard to reach places, like islands or small mountain villages. Betty Greene wanted people to know about Jesus. Show preschoolers the pictures of Betty Greene. Read the story aloud. Thank God for missionaries who love Him.

- “Betty Greene” printable

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

- chart paper or dry erase board
- marker

List sins on a chart

Encourage children to name things that are sins. Write sins on chart paper or a dry erase board. Offer suggestions as needed. Be sure to include inward sins as well as external behaviors. (List sins in a generic way such as *hitting other people* instead of *Mia hit Jeremiah*.)

SAY • Sin is anything we do, say, or think that goes against God. Sometimes sins hurt other people, sometimes they hurt us, but all sin makes God sad. We all sin. We make wrong choices such as disobeying our parents. We hurt our friends by saying or doing mean things. We think things that are angry and wrong. **Jesus was tempted and never sinned.** The devil tried to get Jesus to sin, but Jesus never sinned. Jesus always did the right thing. Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin. Because Jesus never sinned, God can forgive us for our sin. He can help us say no to sin when we are tempted too.

- blocks
- Giant Timeline or Small Group Timeline (005802970, optional)
- smart device (optional)

Build a temple

Guide children to use the blocks to build a temple. If you have a giant timeline or small group timeline in your classroom, show preschoolers the Bible story pictures for Unit 12, Session 3: Solomon Built the Temple or Unit 17,

Session 3: The Temple Was Rebuilt. If a timeline is not available, search on a smart device for images of the temple in Bible times to show preschoolers.

SAY • The devil took Jesus to the top of the temple in Jerusalem. The devil told Jesus to jump off the temple and that angels would keep Him safe and protect Him. Was that a good idea? No! Jesus told the devil the Bible says not to test God. The devil tried hard to get Jesus to sin, but Jesus never sinned. *Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.* We can ask Jesus to help us say no to sin, and He will help us. Jesus died on the cross so we can be forgiven when we do sin.

Sing worship songs

Play several of your favorite worship songs. Provide rhythm instruments for children to play as they sing.

SAY • I love hearing you worship God! The devil tempted Jesus and told Jesus that he would give Jesus money and power if Jesus would worship him. Jesus said, “No!” **Jesus was tempted and never sinned.** Jesus knew that God is the one who created the whole world. He loves us, and is the only One worthy of our worship! One way we worship God is to sing praises to Him.

- worship songs
- rhythm instruments
- “He Came Into the World” song (optional)
- “He Must Increase (John 3:30)” song (optional)

Make a scroll

Print a “Say No Scroll” printable for every three children. Cut along the cut lines on the first page to form three pieces. Give a piece to each child. Direct children to tape craft sticks to each end of their paper to create a scroll. Cut apart the verses on the second page. Open your Bible

- “Say No Scroll” printable, 1 for every 3 children
- jumbo craft sticks, 2 per child
- scissors (adult use)
- glue stick
- markers
- yarn or ribbon

to each of the four verses listed. Read each verse and talk about if that verse will help a child say no to sin. Allow the children to choose two Scripture references to glue to their scrolls. Encourage children to use markers to decorate their scrolls. Provide each child with a piece of yarn or ribbon. Tie preschoolers' scrolls closed.

SAY • When the devil tried to get Jesus to sin, Jesus told him what the Bible said. God's Word can help us fight against sin, too. ***Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.*** Jesus never sinned. Even though Jesus always did the right thing, He was punished for our sin. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us life forever with Him where we will never sin, or even be tempted to sin, again!



Fly an airplane

Print an "Airplane" printable for every two children. Cut out the airplanes before the session. Give each preschooler an airplane. Encourage her to color her airplane and tape the end of a craft stick to the back. Show her how to hold the craft stick handle and "fly" the airplane around the room.

SAY • When you play with your airplane, remember to pray for missionary pilots. Seeing an airplane in the sky can also remind us to pray. Missionary pilots like those who work for Missionary Aviation Fellowship help people learn about Jesus. **Jesus was tempted and never sinned**, but He took the punishment for our sin. When we turn from sin and follow Jesus, we get to be with God forever. Everyone needs to hear this good news!

- "Airplane" printable, 1 for every 2 children
- craft sticks
- crayons
- tape

Tip: Consider asking parents and/or church members to donate travel-size toiletry items for a mission project included in Unit 20, Session 3.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve pretzel sticks and fruit leather for snack. Guide children to wrap the ends of the fruit leather around pretzel sticks to make a scroll. Comment that Jesus knew God's words on the Bible scrolls. He quoted God's Word when the devil tempted Him. Remind preschoolers that **Jesus was tempted and never sinned**.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What did the devil tell Jesus to do to the stones? (*tell them to become bread*)
2. What did the devil tell Jesus to do on top of the temple? (*jump off*)
3. What did the devil tell Jesus to do on the high mountain? (*worship him*)
4. Did Jesus do what the devil told Him to do? (*no*)
5. Did Jesus sin? (*No, Jesus never sinned.*)
6. ***Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to rescue sinners.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

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.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- pretzel sticks (optional)
- fruit leather (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "He Must Increase (John 3:30)" song
- "Take It to the Lord" song
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers*