

JESUS WAS TEMPTED

MATTHEW 4; MARK 1; LUKE 4



CHRIST CONNECTION: When we are tempted to sin, we can ask Jesus to help us say no to sin.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: The Word became flesh and lived among us. John 1:14

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jesus went into the wilderness, and He was hungry. The devil tried to get Jesus to do wrong things.
- The devil wanted Jesus to turn stones to bread, jump off the temple, and then fall down and worship him.
- Jesus said, “Go away! The Bible says to only worship God!” Jesus never sinned.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: After Jesus was baptized, He went into the wilderness. The devil tried to get Jesus to do the wrong things. The devil said, “If you are really God’s Son, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus said no. Then the devil took Jesus on top of the temple and said, “If you are really God’s Son, jump off! God will protect you.” Jesus said no. Finally, the devil took Jesus on top of a high mountain and said, “I will give you all this if you fall down and worship me!” Jesus said no! Then Jesus said, “Go away! The Bible says to only worship God.” The devil went away, and angels came to help Jesus. In all of this, Jesus never sinned.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Matthew 4. Show the Bible Story Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING THE KEY PASSAGE

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer In the Dell”:

“The Word became flesh,
The Word became flesh,
The Word became flesh (clap),
And lived among us.”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase reminds us that Jesus came to live among us. So when we are tempted to sin, we can ask Jesus to help us say no to sin! ”

2 JUMP AND FALL DOWN

Sit the babies in leaders’ laps on the floor, and help the babies to jump. Hold the babies’ hands and guide the babies in a sitting position as if they are falling down. Then guide the babies in getting back into a jumping position. Repeat the second gospel gem.

SAY “ In our Bible story, we learned that the devil wanted Jesus to turn stones to bread, jump off the temple, then fall down and worship him. Did Jesus do what the devil wanted Him to do? No! Jesus never sinned. ”

3 PUSH THE BALL AWAY

Lay babies on their stomachs. Place a medium or large ball in front of the babies and guide their hand to push the ball away. As the babies push the ball, say, “Go away.” Read the last gospel gem as the babies play.

SAY “ Jesus said, ‘Go away!’ Who should we worship? The Bible says to only worship God! Did Jesus ever sin? No, Jesus never sinned. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Matthew 4. Show the Bible Story Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 OPEN THE BIBLE

Fold a piece of a paper in half. Write The Bible says on the front of the paper. Open the paper and write Only worship God on the inside. Guide the toddlers to use crayons to draw a picture on the other side to remind them of the Bible story. Retell the story.

SAY “ What did the devil want Jesus to do? Yes, the devil wanted Jesus to worship him. Did Jesus do what the devil wanted Him to? No! The Bible says to only worship God. ”

3 FIND AND SEEK



Gather toy food items, a Bible, and medium or large stones. Write an X on a piece of red paper to represent wrong things. Place a slice of bread in a ziplock bag, and duct tape the bag closed. (Note: The toy food items represent Jesus being hungry.) Allow toddlers to find the items around the room as you retell the Bible story. Encourage the toddlers to act out the movements: shake their heads from side to side, jump, sit, and so forth.

SAY “ Did the devil try to get Jesus to do wrong things? Yes. Did Jesus do those wrong things? No. How many times did Jesus say no to the devil? Three! Even though Jesus was tempted, Jesus never sinned. ”

4 MAKE “BREAD” ART

Provide painting smocks. Bring in paper plates, small sponges (to represent bread), and finger paint for toddlers to “stamp” the “bread.” Lead the toddlers to dip the sponges in the paint and press onto their papers. Read the Bible story as the toddlers stamp.

SAY “ After Jesus was baptized, Jesus went to the wilderness. The devil tried to get Jesus to do the wrong things. The devil said, ‘If you are really God’s Son, tell these stones to become bread.’ What did Jesus say? That is right! Three times, Jesus said no. Jesus never sinned. ”

5 TOUCH AND SORT STONES



Provide different sizes and textures of stones for toddlers to explore. Challenge the toddlers to sort the stones by size and color. Repeat the Bible story. Explain how the devil wanted Jesus to turn stones into bread. If desired, use a piece of bread in a sealed ziplock bag (duct taped shut) for toddlers to explore the texture differences in the stones and the bread.

SAY “ Jesus never sinned. When we are tempted, we can ask Jesus to help us say no to sin. ”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: SCOOT THE TRUTH

Invite the toddlers to sit in a side-by-side line and listen to the Bible story. Call out different phrases and lead the toddlers to scoot forward if the phrase is right and scoot backward if the phrase is wrong. Say phrases like, “Jesus went into the wilderness,” “Jesus went to the grocery store,” “Jesus said no to the devil,” “Jesus turned the bread into a bike,” “Jesus said to only worship God,” and “Jesus never sinned.” Clap and celebrate the toddlers.

SAY “ Today in our Bible story, we learned about right and wrong. Did Jesus ever sin? No. When we are tempted to sin, we can ask Jesus to help us say no to sin. ”

2 SING THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Sing to the tune of “The Farmer In the Dell”: “The Word became flesh, / The Word became flesh, / The Word became flesh, (clap) / and lived among us.” Use hand motions such as fold your hands together to make a V for “The Word.” For “flesh,” point to the flesh on your arm or hand. On “among us,” point to each toddler. Repeat, using the hand motions as you sing.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase reminds us that Jesus came to live with us. When we are tempted to sin, we can ask Jesus to help us say no to sin. ”

3 WORSHIP AND PARTY

Invite the toddlers to gather around for a worship party. Play soft worship music on an electronic device. Give each toddler a scarf or toy musical instrument. Encourage the toddlers to do different movements with the scarves and play the instruments. Pause the music and lead the toddlers to repeat, “We should only worship God.” Continue as interest allows.

SAY “ Today, we had a worship party. Who does the Bible tell us to worship? Yes, God. We should only worship God! Even though the devil tried to tempt Jesus, did Jesus ever sin? No, Jesus never sinned. ”

4 UNFREEZE THE TRUTH

Gather the toddlers and read the Bible story. Instruct the toddlers to spread out around the room. Select one player to be It. When It gently taps a player, that player must freeze. After the frozen player says a truth from the Bible story, that player may return to the game. Assist toddlers in recalling truths from the Bible story. Use this game to review the Bible story.

SAY “ The devil tried to get Jesus to do wrong things. Did Jesus do those wrong things? No. Sometimes we do wrong things, and we sin. But does Jesus sin? No. Jesus never sinned! ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ Connection, and gospel gems throughout the week.