UNIT 20 | SESSION 3

JESUS WAS TEMPTED

MATTHEW 4; MARK 1; LUKE 4

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus always did the right thing. He 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.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: *Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is fully God and fully human.*

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

STORY POINT: Jesus was tempted and never sinned.

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PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' temptation by Satan is a showdown with redemptive implications. Had Jesus not been able to withstand Satan's attacks, Christ would not have been the spotless Lamb of God and would not have made for a sufficient sacrifice for sinners. The gospel hinged on Jesus' ability to stand firm in the face of temptation.

Thankfully, Jesus was indeed strong enough to withstand Satan's scheme. Though we as sinful humans fall daily into sin's temptations, Jesus never sinned.

Just as the Old Testament figures Moses, Elijah, and Noah spent 40 days in difficult, faith-testing circumstances, we read that Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and that the Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. This event took place just after Jesus' public baptism and demonstrates the truth of Hebrews 5:8: "Although he was the Son, he learned obedience from what he suffered." If Jesus had to learn obedience, how much more do we have to learn?

We read that Jesus was well-informed with Scripture and used it in His fight against the lies of the enemy. Though the omnipotent Jesus had the power to perform miracles and escape the wilderness, He remained in the desert to reveal His power to overcome the temptations of sin.

Likewise, though Jesus had the means to flee from the temptation He faced, He remained dependent upon His Father, showing us what it means to endure. It is in the testing of our faith and through our reliance upon His Spirit that Christians are constantly being made into the image of the Savior. It is not through our obedience and good works that we receive a righteous standing before God; rather, it is by grace through faith in the only righteous one, Jesus, that we are credited with Jesus' perfect life.

As you teach the kids in your church this week, emphasize that we cannot obey or work our way into salvation. Instead, we must place our faith in the only one who has been tempted yet remains sinless. Lead boys and girls to see that faith in Jesus is the only way to receive and experience everlasting life.

The Gospel Project Podcast

Scan the QR code to listen to The Gospel Project for Kids Weekly Leader Training Podcast.

PREPARE
THE WEEK PRIOR
Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session

WELCOME
10–15 MINUTES
Greet preschoolers and open the session

LEARN
25–30 MINUTES
Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel

LOVE
Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30–40 MINUTES

LIVE
Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel

BONUS
60–65 MINUTES
Teach preschoolers for an additional hour

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PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tip scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.

WELCOME

Create a mural
- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ JESUS mural from last session

LEARN

Find stones
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ stones, 1 per child

Tell the Bible story
- ☐ "Jesus Was Tempted" video (optional)

Review the Bible story
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster
- ☐ stones from "Find stones" activity

Learn and practice the key passage phrase
- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

LOVE

Observe stones
- ☐ stones in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors
- ☐ magnifying glasses
- ☐ baby wipes

Sort pictures of Bibles
- ☐ "Sorting Cards" printable, 2 copies

LIVE

Paint with stones
- ☐ "Key Passage Phrase Label" printable
- ☐ container with lid
- ☐ washable paint
- ☐ stones
- ☐ art brushes

Missions activity
- ☐ painter's tape

Snack and transition
- ☐ hand sanitizer (optional)
- ☐ "Complete the Picture" activity page, 1 per child
- ☐ Big Picture Cards for Families

BONUS

Say the key passage phrase
- ☐ Key Passage Phrase Marker

Explore with binoculars
- ☐ binoculars

Share a special meal
- ☐ play food
- ☐ dishes
- ☐ utensils
- ☐ cookware
- ☐ tablecloth

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WELCOME

WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers opportunities to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, the story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the room. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

CREATE A MURAL

Before the session refer to the JESUS mural from last session on the wall at children's eye level, along with the Bible Story Picture Poster. Add the letter S, so that the mural now reads JES. Cut construction paper into one-inch squares. Place the construction paper squares and glue sticks near the mural. Post the Big Picture Question Poster near the entrance to the classroom. Greet kids as they come to the classroom and point out the Big Picture Question Poster. Encourage kids to glue the construction paper squares to the letter S.

> **SAY** "*Welcome to church today. Our big picture questions asks,* **Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is fully God and fully human.** *We are creating a mural with a special message. The first letters are J, E, and S. Can you guess what the word is? J, E, and S are the first letters in Jesus' name. In our story today, we will learn that* **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED**. *The devil wanted Jesus to do the wrong things. Jesus said no. Jesus always did the right thing.*"

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**

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LEARN the Bible Story

1 FIND STONES

Hide stones throughout the classroom. Ensure that you have at least one stone per child. Invite kids to find a stone and bring it to the group-time area. Cover the Bible Story Picture Poster with the stones.

> **SAY** *These stones remind me of the stones in our story. Jesus did not have anything to eat when He was in the wilderness. He was hungry. The devil tried to get Jesus to do the wrong things. He said, 'If You are really God's Son, tell these stones to become bread.'*

2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

JESUS WAS TEMPTED

> **SAY** *After Jesus was baptized, God's Spirit led Him into the wilderness. Jesus did not eat anything in the wilderness, and He was very hungry.*
>
> *The devil came to try to get Jesus to do wrong things by sinning. The devil said, "If You are really God's Son, tell these stones to become bread."*
>
> *Jesus said no. He trusted God to give Him what He needed. Jesus said, "The Bible says man must not live only on bread but on all the words God says."*
>
> *So the devil tried again. He took Jesus to the top of the temple. The devil said, "If You are really God's Son, jump off the top of the temple. God will protect You."*
>
> *Again, Jesus said no. Jesus said, "The Bible says, 'Do not test God.'"*
>
> *Finally, the devil took Jesus up to a high mountain. They could see land stretched out far and wide. The devil said, "Look! I will give You these great kingdoms. All You have to do is fall down and worship me!"*
>
> *Jesus said, "No, go away! The Bible says to only worship God."*
>
> *The devil went away, and angels came to help Jesus and serve Him. In all of this, Jesus never sinned.*
>
> *Christ Connection: Jesus always did the right thing. He 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.*

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3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Cover the Bible Story Picture with stones. Encourage children to remove a stone from the Bible Story Picture Poster as they answer a question about the story. Assist children in answering questions. Questions may include, Where did Jesus go? (*wilderness*) Did the devil try to get Jesus to do the right or wrong thing? (*wrong*) Did Jesus do what the devil told Him to? (*no*) Who does the Bible say we are to worship? (*only God*) Did Jesus sin? (*no*). Once children have removed all the stones, look at the Bible Story Picture Poster together.

> **SAY** "**JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.** *The devil tried to get Jesus to do the wrong thing, but Jesus did not do what the devil said to do. Jesus always did the right thing. He 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.*"

4 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It":

The Word became flesh and lived among us.
The Word became flesh and lived among us.
The Word became flesh,
And lived among us.
The Word became flesh and lived among us.

5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at John 1:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage children to say the key passage phrase with you several times, alternating between a loud voice and quiet voice.

> **SAY** "*Our key passage phrase tells us that God became a human and lived on earth. Jesus is fully God and fully human. The devil tried to get Jesus to do the wrong things, but Jesus always did the right thing.* **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.**"

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that Jesus always did the right thing. Ask Him to help us do the right thing, too. As you pray with them, mention each child by name

Transition from **LEARN** *to* **LOVE**

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LOVE God because of what we learned

1 EXPLORE BIBLES

Place several Bibles out for children to explore. Place a strip of construction paper at Matthew 4, Mark 1, Luke 1, and John 1:14 to mark the Bible story and key passage phrase locations. Point out and read portions of the story when children locate it in the Bible. Talk about how important and special the Bible is as children turn the pages and look at the words and pictures.

> **SAY** *The Bible is a special book. It tells us how much God loves us and all the things He has done. After Jesus was baptized, God's Spirit led Him into the wilderness. The devil came to try to get Jesus to do the wrong things. Each time the devil tried to get Jesus to do the wrong thing, Jesus told the devil what the Bible said.* **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.** *Jesus always did the right thing. He 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.*

2 OBSERVE STONES

Place stones, magnifying glasses, and baby wipes on the table. Invite children to explore the stones, noting their size, shape, and color. Demonstrate how to use the magnifying glasses to observe the stones up close. Suggest children use the wipes to clean the stones. Older children may enjoy sorting the stones by size or shape.

> **SAY** *After Jesus was baptized, God's Spirit led Him into the wilderness. Jesus did not eat anything, and He was very hungry. The devil came to try to get Jesus to do the wrong things. He said, 'If You are really God's Son, tell these stones to become bread.' Jesus said no. He trusted God to give Him what He needed.* **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.**

3 SORT PICTURES OF BIBLES

Before the session, print and cut out two copies of the "Sorting Cards" printable. Place the cards on the table for kids to explore. Talk about what is the same and what is different in each picture. Invite children to sort the cards into groups based on what they see. Compare the cards to Bibles you see in the classroom. Younger children may want to match the cards that are the same rather than sort them.

> **SAY** *The devil tried to get Jesus to do the wrong things.* **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.** *Each time the devil tried to get Jesus to do something wrong, Jesus would tell him what the Bible says. Jesus said, 'The Bible says man must not live only on bread but on all the words God says.' 'The Bible says, do not test God.' And 'The Bible says to only worship God.' When we are tempted to sin, we can ask Jesus to help us say no to sin.*

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**

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LIVE for God out of love

1 PAINT WITH STONES

Cut a sheet of construction paper to fit inside the container. Then generously apply washable paint to the stones and place the painted stones in the container on top of the paper and close the lid. With a firm grip on the container and lid, shake vigorously so that the stones roll around. Carefully remove the paper and show the kids the artwork that was created as a result. Place a key passage label on the completed artwork and set it aside to dry.

> **SAY** *"You painted with stones. The devil tried to get Jesus to turn stones into bread when He was hungry, but Jesus said no.* **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.** *Our key passage phrase tells us, 'The Word became flesh and lived among us.' God became a human and lived on earth. He was hungry and tempted but did not sin."*

2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Use painter's tape to make a line on the floor. Tell children to stand on the taped line to play a game. Explain that the Spanish word *mar* means *sea* and the Spanish word *tierra* means *land*. Show them which side of the line is mar and which side is tierra. Call out one of the words and tell them to move to the correct side. Continue, calling out one word or the other.

> **SAY** *"Primera Iglesia Bautista Church and Northland Baptist Church want to tell more people about Jesus in Missouri. One way they are doing that is by offering classes to help people learn English. Offering these classes will help the Hispanic people know the church cares about them and wants to help them know more about Jesus.* **[Lead a prayer.]** *"*

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION

Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

> **SAY** *"Jesus always did the right thing. He 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."*

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.

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BONUS

TEACHING HOUR

BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

1 CLIMB A MOUNTAIN

Invite kids to pretend to climb a high mountain with you. Pretend to look out over the land once you have climbed to the top. Tell children that the devil took Jesus up to a high mountain and showed Him faraway lands when he tried to get Jesus to do wrong things.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

JESUS WAS TEMPTED

- God's Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. Jesus did not eat anything there, and He was hungry.
- The devil tried to get Jesus to do the wrong things. He said, "If You really are God's Son, turn these stones into bread." But Jesus said no.
- The devil tried again. He took Jesus to the top of the temple. He said, "If You really are God's Son, jump off this temple. God will protect You." But Jesus said no.
- Finally, the devil took Jesus up to a high mountain and showed him faraway lands. The devil said, "Look! I will give You these kingdoms if You worship me." But Jesus said no.
- The devil went away, and angels came to help Jesus and serve Him. In all of this, Jesus never sinned.

3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It":

The Word became flesh and lived among us.
The Word became flesh and lived among us.
The Word became flesh,
And lived among us.
The Word became flesh and lived among us.

4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at John 1:14. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage phrase together several times, alternating between saying it standing up and sitting down. For an added challenge, alternate standing and sitting with each word of the key passage phrase.

5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God that **JESUS WAS TEMPTED BUT NEVER SINNED.**

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BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 BUILD A BLOCK TOWER

LOW PREP

Invite kids to build block towers. Count the number of blocks they use each time they build a tower. Encourage children to work together to build an even taller tower.

> **SAY** *You built a tall block tower. The devil took Jesus to the top of the tall temple. The devil said, 'If You are really God's Son, jump off the top of the temple. God will protect You.' Jesus said, 'No. The Bible says, do not test God.'* **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.** *Jesus always did the right thing. He 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.*

7 EXPLORE WITH BINOCULARS

Place binoculars out for children to explore. Demonstrate how to use the binoculars to see things far away. If your classroom has a window, use the binoculars to look at things that are far away outside as well. Take turns describing what you see through the binoculars and inviting a friend to guess what it is.

> **SAY** *Binoculars help us see things that are far away. Sometime people take binoculars with them when they climb mountains and go exploring. The devil took Jesus to the top of a high mountain. They could see land stretched out far and wide. The devil said, 'Look! I will give you these great kingdoms. All you have to do is fall down and worship me.' Jesus said, 'Go away! The Bible says to only worship God.'* **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.**

8 SHARE A SPECIAL MEAL

Invite children to set the table for a special meal. Demonstrate where to place the plates and utensils at the table. Encourage children to cook something special with the play food and cookware. Join preschoolers in pretending to eat the special meal together.

> **SAY** *I enjoyed the meal you made. We eat meals when we are hungry. After Jesus was baptized, God's Spirit led Him into the wilderness. Jesus did not eat anything in the wilderness, and He was very hungry. The devil came to try 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. He trusted God to give Him what He needed.* **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.**

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

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