



## **QUESTION:**

Why do I keep messing up?

## Power Phrase

The Holy Spirit will help me to do what is right!

## Memory Verse

Romans 7:19, “For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.”

## Supporting Doctrines

For supporting doctrines, see our Statement of Faith at [novoministries.org/statement-of-faith](http://novoministries.org/statement-of-faith).

## Goals

The child will...

- Learn that the Holy Spirit is with him if Jesus is the Lord of his life!
- Understand that no one is perfect, but the Holy Spirit can help him to do what is right!
- Choose to listen to the Holy Spirit each and every day!

## Reminders

Although our sins have been forgiven, we are still human. We will still make mistakes! We still have a human nature and are in a world that is full of sin and temptation. The difference is that as believers the price has been paid already for every sin we have ever committed or will commit, and we have been given the Holy Spirit Who will help us to do what is right!

## Acknowledgements

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The stories and photos shared in the Gospel Presentation Activities are used with the permission of [www.iamsecond.com](http://www.iamsecond.com).

## Additional Resources

All Large Group or Small Group activity visuals or supply items followed by an asterisk ( \* ) may be downloaded for printing at [www.novoministries.org/resource](http://www.novoministries.org/resource).

# Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

## (Bible Story - Matthew 3-4:11)

### Visuals

- Bible Story Visuals\*, “Cheer” and “Boo” signs\*

### Supplies

- Bible, Bible Insert for Large Group\*

### Captivate #1 - Thumbs Up!

- Stop at different points during the story and ask the children a question that has a “yes” or “no” answer. Ask them to show their answer by putting their thumbs up for “yes” and thumbs down for “no.”

### Captivate #2 - Cheer!

- Choose one child to hold the “Cheer” and “Boo” signs. Throughout the Bible Story, have the child hold up the sign that fits with what is being said. This will help the children focus on the story and also identify the positive and negative aspects of the story.

### Introduction

- John the Baptist was sent to let people know that the Messiah was coming. He shared the Gospel with people everywhere he went. When they became believers, he would baptize them. He told them that someone so much greater than him was coming who would dramatically change their lives.
- While John was teaching by the Jordan River, Jesus came from Galilee to the river. He wanted John to baptize Him. John protested and said that Jesus should be baptizing him, not the other way around. Jesus insisted, so John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. The moment Jesus came up out of the water, the skies opened and He saw God’s Spirit. It ascended like a dove and rested on Him. The Spirit spoke, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17).”

### Story

- Retell the story from Matthew 3-4:11.
- See Story Script.

### Conclusion

- Jesus came to earth and lived on earth like we do. He experienced all the emotions, temptations, and challenges people do. But not once did Jesus give in to the temptations of Satan. The Holy Spirit was with Jesus, gave Him strength, and reminded Him of what was true and written in Scripture. Jesus used Scripture to make the right choices and stand up against Satan’s temptations. Just like the Holy Spirit was with Jesus, He will be with us and help us do right!

## Testimony

- Share about a time you messed up but how the Holy Spirit helped you to do what was right.
- Share about a time you realized you weren’t perfect, but you knew that God loved you and would always forgive you and help you to do what was right.

## Challenge

### Visuals

- Key Point Visuals\*, Power Phrase Visual\*, Memory Verse Visual\*

### Supplies

- Bible, Bible Insert for Large Group\*

### Introduction

- The Holy Spirit came upon Jesus when He was baptized. God sent the Holy Spirit to guide and protect Jesus while He was on earth. Jesus came to earth and was born in a manger. He was given an earthly body like ours. He experienced the same thoughts, feelings, fears, and temptations we do. He understands and has experienced all of them. He modeled for us how we can experience temptation and not give in to it! Just like the Holy Spirit was with Jesus and helped Him, the Holy Spirit will help us to do what is right!

### Key Points

#### We all sin!

- We must first understand the history of sin. Adam and Eve were told by God that they would die if they ate the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (Genesis 2:17). They didn't die right away physically. God was speaking of a spiritual death – separation from God. Since that time, all of Adam's descendants are born as sinners; they are born spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1).
- Our sinful nature is wrapped up in our physical bodies (Romans 7:5-6).

#### As believers, our relationship to sin changes!

- When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and be the Lord of our lives, He forgives our past, present, and future sins (Hebrews 9:26).
- We have a new nature now! The problem is that we have a fight inside, our old nature vs. our new nature. But God has promised us that we ultimately will have victory (Romans 7:24-25, 1 Corinthians 15:57)!
- No longer let sin reign in our mortal bodies; rather become instruments in the Father's hands for righteousness and holiness (Romans 6:5-14).

#### Our "why" is important!

- Our fellowship with God through Jesus Christ, by way of the Holy Spirit, leads us to bring glory and thanks to God for the freedom He has given (Colossians 3:17).
- Our desire to do what is right isn't to avoid punishment but to honor God. It is our relationship with God that causes us to make the right choices (John 14:15).

## Challenge (Continued)

### Conclusion

- Sometimes we expect too much of ourselves. We WILL continue to sin as long as we are on this earth and in these bodies. But we have been promised victory – little victories in our everyday lives and the BIG victory when we go to Heaven. So instead of focusing on getting everything right, let's focus on keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus (Psalm 27:8, Hebrews 12:2). He will let us know what to work on next, and how. He rejoices over us as we take each step toward Heaven, for He knows that in His presence we will have the ultimate victory: we will be like Him (Romans 8:29, 1 John 4:17). The Holy Spirit will help us to do what is right!

### Invitation

For the unsaved child:

- Do you know that we are all sinners? Sin is anything we think, say, or do that breaks God's Law. God wants you to know that He loves you and that He sent His Son to die for your sins (John 3:16). You can be forgiven for your sins and ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life.
- Invite the children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions or would like to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and be the Lord of their lives.

For the saved child:

- Challenge the saved child to keep his eyes on Jesus! Remind the children that they will still make mistakes, but when they fix their eyes on Jesus, He will help them avoid sin.
- Encourage children if they have any questions to stay behind and talk to a leader.

## Spilled Milk (Arriving Activity)

### Visuals

- Picture of spilled milk\*

### Instruction and Application

- As the children arrive, ask them if they have ever accidentally knocked over a glass of milk or something else they were drinking. Maybe they got in trouble because they weren't paying attention; or maybe their parent said it was okay – accidents happen. There is a saying, "Don't cry over spilled milk." It means you shouldn't dwell on things that have already happened and that you can't change. Today we are going to learn that we are all sinners and make mistakes. We shouldn't worry about the things we've done before. We can ask God to forgive our sin and He will. We are human and will make mistakes, but the Holy Spirit can help us to do what is right!
  - Review the Memory Verse together. Romans 7:19, "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing."
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## Marionette (Memory Verse)

### Visuals

- Memory Verse Visual\*, Picture of a marionette\*

### Supplies

- Bible, marker board, marker

### A.G.A.I.N. Acrostic

**A — Attention Grabber** (Grab their attention with an interesting introduction, and don't let go!)

Ask the children if they have ever seen or played with a marionette puppet. It is a puppet that has strings attached to its hands, feet, and head that is controlled by a person who is holding the strings. When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and be our Lord, we are made new on the inside. We still have our sinful nature and live in a sinful world. So although our spirit wants to serve and honor God in all we do, we fight against our sinful nature. We sometimes do not do the good that we want to, but the evil we do not want to do is what we keep on doing. That is why God gives us the Holy Spirit, so we can have strength to stand up against our sinful nature and do what is right. Even with the Holy Spirit, there will be times that we will give in to temptation and disobey God; however, we should always strive to be obedient.

**G — God's Word** (Show them that the concept you are teaching them comes from the Bible.)

Romans 7:19, "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing."

**A — Awareness** (Make them "aware" of the words and concepts.)

Good – things that honor God

Evil – things that do not honor God

**I — In Their Lives** (Teach them to apply the lesson "in their lives.")

**Unsaved child** (questions to ask an unsaved child)

Do you realize that you do things that do not honor God, and that is called sin? What can you do to be forgiven for those sins?

**Saved child** (questions to ask a saved child)

Do you listen to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to help you do what is right? What are areas of temptation that you need to have strength against?

**N — Number of Times** (Repeat the content again and again until the children understand it.)

Read from Scripture. Repeat after me. Play the Memory Game three or four times.

### Memory Game

Play Erase a Word. Write the Memory Verse on a chalk/marker board. Erase one word at a time while letting the children guess the missing word.

## Second Chance (Gospel Presentation)

### Visuals

- “Who is God?”, “What’s the Problem?”, and “What’s the Solution?” Foundational Gospel Truths Visuals\*, Picture of Annie Lobert\*

### Supplies

- Bible, paper, writing tools, dry erase board, markers

### Instruction and Application

- When Annie Lobert was a little girl, she was very lost. She thought that no one loved her and no one wanted her. She ran away. Her boyfriend used her and broke her heart. She was bitter and angry. She wanted power to take revenge on men. She wanted money to have nice things and be someone important. These desires overrode any caution in her life, and within a short time she was selling her body to get the money she thought was her answer to a better life.
- Annie became ill and was diagnosed with cancer. She started taking painkillers while on treatments and became addicted. She had hit rock bottom. She thought God was angry with her and that she could never be clean. She almost overdosed one night and knew she was about to die. Annie cried out to Jesus to save her. An ambulance came, and the doctor told her she was lucky to be alive because she should have been dead. Realizing that God answered her prayer, she was filled with peace. She knew God gave her a second chance. She started reading her Bible but was afraid to go to church. She was worried that the people would reject her. She decided to go to church anyway, and the people welcomed her. She believed that God completely forgave her and made her whole and pure. One day God called Annie to go back to the other girls she knew who were selling their bodies to share with them that God loves them and they can have a second chance.
- Just like Annie, we can know and be loved by our Heavenly Father (John 3:16). He will never abandon us and wants us to spend eternity with Him in Heaven (John 14:3). Use the “Who is God?” Visual to review.
- Annie realized there was no sin so great that God would not forgive. We have all sinned and deserve to be punished for our sins. Use the “What’s the Problem?” Visual to review.
- Annie received forgiveness for her sins by believing in Jesus for salvation. God is using her life and her story to reach out to other lost girls who need to know that God loves them and wants to change their lives. Use the “What’s the Solution?” Visual to review.

### Discussion

- Older Team: Have the children discuss how difficulties in life can cause them to make wrong choices and doubt God.
- Younger Team: Have the children discuss who God is and how much He loves them.
- Quiet Team: Have the children write the words “second chance” and around them write the things that God has forgiven in their lives and how He can give them a second chance.
- Active Team: Use a dry erase board and markers. Have the children play Hangman using words from our lesson such as “substitute,” “second chance,” or “forgiveness.”

## Flashback (Review Questions)

### Supplies

- Review Questions\*

### Large Group Review Questions

- Who did God send to prepare the way for Jesus? (John the Baptist)
- What did John do after people became believers? (He baptized them.)
- What did Jesus ask John to do? (To baptize Him)
- What was John's response to Jesus? (He thought Jesus should baptize him instead.)
- What happened after Jesus was baptized? (The Spirit came upon Him like a dove.)
- Where did the Spirit lead Jesus next? (Into the wilderness)
- What was the purpose of Jesus being in the wilderness? (To be tempted by Satan)
- How long did Jesus fast? (40 days and nights)
- Why did Satan tempt Jesus with turning stones into bread? (He knew that Jesus was very hungry and saw it as a weakness.)
- How did Jesus respond to Satan's temptations? (He quoted Scripture.)
- What was the first temptation? (Turn stones into loaves of bread)
- What was the second temptation? (Throw Himself from the top of the Temple and have angels save Him)
- What was the third temptation? (Bow down to Satan and He would be given all the kingdoms of the earth)

### Discussion Questions

- Why do you think God would allow Satan to tempt Jesus?
  - How do you feel knowing that Jesus was able to endure temptation and not sin?
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## Speaking God's Word (Craft)

### Visuals

- Craft sample\*

### Supplies

- Heart template\* (one per child printed on red paper), Scripture template\* (one per child), glue, coloring tools, scissors

### Instruction and Application

- Give each of the children a Heart template and a Scripture template. These can be cut out ahead of time, or you can have the children cut them out. Have the children color the center rectangle of the heart the color they want their Bible to be. Next have them fold the Scripture paper on the dotted line as shown in the craft sample. Glue the pieces together that are folded and then glue the back edge to the inside of the Bible rectangle on the center of the Heart paper.
  - Remind the children that the Holy Spirit helps us to do what is right. We are going to face temptations just like Jesus did in the desert. Just like Jesus quoted Scripture when He was being tempted, the Holy Spirit can remind us of Scriptures we've learned so we can be bold and do what is right.
  - Review the Memory Verse together. Romans 7:19, "For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing."
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## What's the Point? (Application Activity)

### Supplies

- Paper, writing tools, "What's the Point?" card\*

### Activity #1

- Give each child a "What's the Point?" card. Discuss the question in this lesson: Why do I keep messing up? Have the children write the different things that help them know that the Holy Spirit will help them do what is right. Then have the children write their answer to this lesson's question and why they believe it. Encourage the children to put into action what they learned today. Maybe they can tell a friend or family member what they learned and how the Holy spirit can help them do what is right.

### Activity #2

- Have the children take turns acting out different ways they can tell others how the Holy Spirit can help them do what is right. If you have a group that is quieter, you could choose to have them draw a picture or make a card for someone instead.
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## Now What? (Additional Activity)

### Supplies

- Additional Activity #1: Wilderness Coloring Page\*
- Additional Activity #2: Wilderness Crossword\*
- Additional Activity #3: The Big Take Away Key Chain\*

### Instruction and Application

- These activities are to be used with your team as time fillers while reinforcing the lesson concepts. The children can take these home each week or do them while they are listening to you teach during Small Group. These activities require little to no explanation and can be great for moments when you are transitioning or don't have time to start another activity.
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