



Date: _____

Series: Surrender U
Winter Year 1, Lesson 45

Jesus is Tempted: Jump!

Take Home Point: *Give up control—and get God's power. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Matthew 4: 1-10. Jesus' temptation

Key Verse: Matthew 4:7, Jesus said to him, "Again, Scripture says, 'Never tempt the Lord your God.'"

We will help kids know:

- We are not to test God by putting ourselves in dangerous situations.
- We don't test God by trying to make him prove his power—that's like trying to control him!
- God wants us to surrender our desire to control everything and give it to him. As we surrender to him, he gives us security. For indeed, he will take care of us.
- Jesus trusted his father and surrendered control to him. His Father provided for him so that even when he died on the cross, his Father raised him to life.




We will help kids feel:

- Secure in the trust relationship with God.
- Challenged to give up their desire for personal control with many things in this world beyond their control.
- Experience the thrill of trusting God in every situation.

We will help kids do:

- Identify some of the ways they might wish they could control God.
- Make a tower that collapses, and then later, build a tower that will stand firm, illustrating giving control to God.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

| DESTINATION | PAGE # | DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY | SUPPLIES NEEDED |
|---|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Small Group Warm-Up  | 3 | Kids compete to see who can build the biggest tower and realize they cannot always control or prevent a collapse. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 index cards or old playing cards per group • candy rewards |
| Large Group  | 4 8 9 10 | Overview Dramatic Presentation: "Professor Givitup Talks about Giving up Control" Video: <i>The Animated Stories from the New Testament: Jesus, the Son of God</i> by Nest Family Entertainment---the temptation of Jesus Object Lesson Activity: "Practical Trusting" – This game will test a volunteer's trust. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mortar board (graduation) cap and gown • bold colored tie, poorly tied (feather boa or scarf for female professor) to wear outside the gown for comic effect • white gloves • volunteer to be Surrender Hands • curtain or partitioned area • 2 signs (see p. 12-13) • controls from a video game • optional: marionette puppet • baby blanket • video, <i>The Animated Stories of the New Testament: Jesus, the Son of God</i> (www.nestfamily.com) |
| Small Group Application  | 4 | Kids build secure card towers as they discuss areas that they need to let God be in control. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cards from small group Warm-Up • scissors |

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

As kids gather: *Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, for remembering to bring Bibles, and for bringing a guest.*

Each group will need 24, 3" x 5" index cards, or a half deck of old playing cards. Have some wrapped candy to use as rewards.

Divide your small group into two teams. Give each team 12 cards. Say,

Let's have a contest. Each team has 12 cards. Which team can build the tallest card tower? You can build it however you want just as long as you use just the cards as your building material. After five minutes, we will see who has the highest tower and the winners get a prize.

The prizes should increase the energy and likely increase the probability of buildings collapsing. After five minutes, discuss the many frustrations of not being able to control the outcome of the building process. Award candy to both sides.

There are certain things in life that we can control and certain things that we can't. For example, sometimes we can control how patient we are in building or in working together to build a card tower—but sometimes we can't control the outcome. Sometimes the card tower falls. Here's the question though. Can we control God? No, of course not. But today we will find that Satan suggested that we *can* control God.

He suggested to Jesus that he could control God. Satan said to Jesus, "After all, God said he would protect you, so why don't you throw yourself down from this tall building?" It was very similar to saying, "If you are God, then prove it by doing a fancy miracle and rescue me when I jump off this building." What do you think was wrong about making such a suggestion?

Take answers. One thought is this is like trying to get God to do a "magic" show for us.

The Bible calls it testing God. When we do something dangerous or silly and expect God to save us, that's telling God we can control him. It would be saying, "We can make God do anything we want. Even if we do something foolish or dangerous, he'll save us." That's not true. The truth is, we are not in control of God.

Let's talk about being in control. What are things we can control and things we can't? Let's make a list. Things we can control are... (Take examples such as choosing to make my bed, being late for school, doing my homework, etc.).

What are some of the things we are not in control of? Are we in control of how long we live, what family we are born into to, when an accident happens? Can I control sickness? NO!

Many times there are situations that are beyond our control. It is helpful then to know that we can give our need to control everything to God and trust him. Also, today we will learn not to test God by living dangerously or foolishly and expecting him to protect us. We shouldn't ask God to do some "magic" show to prove that he is real or that he has power. Instead, we will learn: **Give up control—and get God's power.*

Let's find out how Jesus responded to this temptation when Satan tempted Jesus to do something foolish.

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Dramatic Presentation: "Professor Givitup Talks About Giving up Control"

Video: *The Animated Stories of the New Testament: Jesus, the Son of God* by Nest Family Entertainment---the temptation of Jesus

Object Lesson Activity: "Practical Trusting" – This game will test a volunteer's trust.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Read Matthew 4:5-7.

Where did Satan take Jesus to stand? *(The highest point in the temple – about five or six stories high.)*

Read verse 6.

What do you think Satan suggested Jesus would prove if he threw himself down from the temple and be saved by God? *(Satan was trying to get Jesus to prove he was God by doing some kind of miraculous show that wasn't part of God's will. Jesus would not prove he is God's Son by doing high flying stunts but by going to the cross to save us from our sins.)*

How well do you think Satan knows the Bible? *(Verse 6.)* **Does he use it the way it should be used?** *(He knows it well and can even quote it, but he doesn't use it the way it should be used and often changes it just a little bit to deceive.)*

In response to Satan's remarks, Jesus quoted a scripture. What did he say? *(You shall not test or tempt the Lord your God.)* **What does this mean?** *(You can't control God by making him prove himself by miracles.)*

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

How did Satan suggest Jesus control God and get him to do something? *(Get God to do something he wouldn't normally do. For example, God wouldn't do miracles just to show off his power.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Our key verse for today is how Jesus responded to Satan. In Matthew 4:7, Jesus said to him, ***"Again, Scripture says, 'Never tempt the Lord your God.'"***

Instead of listening to Satan, Jesus trusted and surrendered his control to his heavenly Father. He used God's word as his weapon to fight Satan's temptation.

Let's talk about things we, too, can surrender to God, our heavenly Father, so that he has control and not us.

Let me share this story.

There was a sixth grader named Samantha. Her friend Rachel wasn't a believer in Jesus. As a matter of fact, she didn't believe anything about the Bible, and she even believed that God didn't have any power to help anyone at all. Samantha thought and knew otherwise. She wanted to prove to Rachel that God was real. Rachel gave Samantha a challenge, "If God is real, does he hear your prayers?"

"Yes," said Samantha.

"Well, I'll believe in him if you pray and he answers," said Rachel.

"Okay," said Samantha.

"So, this is what I want you to ask him to do," said Rachel.

"I have a freckle on my face that I think is ugly. You pray to him that my freckle might disappear by tomorrow morning. If he's real and he hears your prayers, then tomorrow morning my freckle will be gone."

Samantha didn't know quite what to say. Was she to pray for something like that? Is that how God proves that he is real?

If you were Samantha, what would you tell Rachel? Discuss answers.

Samantha agreed to pray for Rachel. The next morning Rachel was eager to find Samantha. "See," she said, "my freckle is still there. Your God is not real. Did you pray last night?"

"Yes, I did," replied Samantha, "but I didn't just pray for your freckle. God is interested in much more than just the freckle on your face. If you are looking for proof that God is real and that he loves you, I think I found out what it is."

Kids, what do you think Samantha said next? What would be proof that God is real and that he loves Rachel? The proof is that he sent his Son Jesus into the world to give his life for her and all people. If they believe and trust him as their Savior, they will know God personally and know him as their friend and rescuer.

Application Activity:

Supplies: cards from warm-up, scissors

Let each child cut an inch slit on the long side of their cards. This will be done so that the cards can be fit together securely and make a firm building construction.

Remember how in Warm-Up we discussed things we couldn't control and how frustrating it was to have our towers fall down? When we learn to surrender ourselves to God's will, he is in strong control.

Now, each of you take a card. I'd like you to think about one area of your life where you'd like to have control, but you can't. Instead, you need to surrender that control to God. For example, you might think of something you worry about, but all the worry in the world won't help. By surrendering it to God, you let him take care of it.

Can everyone stop for a moment and think about something they need to surrender to God? When everyone has something they are thinking of, let's take these cards and make an inch cut in them on the long side. These slits will be used to fasten the cards together and make a tall building like we did at the beginning.

Pass out scissors.

As you cut a slit in your card, think about how God wants to be in control of our lives. As we surrender our desires and our control, he gives us his power to work through difficult situations. Remember the take home point: **Give up control –and get God's power.*

Now let's take these cards and fasten them together and make our tall buildings like we did earlier today. This time the building might stand up a little better. Each time you add your cards, be ready to talk about the things you'd like to surrender to God's control. As we do this, let's remember how Jesus did not give in to Satan's temptation and try to control God by throwing himself down and asking God to save him. Instead, as he had done his whole life, Jesus gave control to his heavenly Father and did his will. Let's think of some things we can give to God to control, instead of worrying about. Discuss and build your tower.

Closing Prayer:

Let each person pray and surrender control to God for an area of difficulty in his/her life. Ask for God's full power to work it out.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Professor Givitup Talks About Giving Up Control Dramatic Presentation

Supplies:

- *mortar board cap and gown*
- *bold colored tie, poorly tied (feather boa or scarf for female professor) to wear outside the gown for comic effect*
- *white gloves*
- *curtain or partitioned area*
- *2 signs: "My control" and "God's perfect control over my life."*
- *controls from a video game or a marionette puppet*
- *baby blanket*
- *white board, flip chart or chalkboard with Professor Givitup's name and topic*

Enter Professor Givitup. If feeling exceptionally adventurous, speak in a German accent.

Good morning, students, welcome to Surrender University. My name is Wilhelm (female will be Wilhelmina) U. Givitup or as my friends call me, Will U. Givitup. (Willa U. for a female professor). Here at Surrender U. we study surrendology, the study of what it means to surrender our lives to God and receive from him true life. May I have a student come forward to read a key verse for us?

Have volunteer read 2 Corinthians 5:15: *"He died for all people so that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for the man who died and was brought back to life for them."*

Let's pray for that now.

Dear God, you gave us Jesus who didn't just live for himself. Instead, he surrendered his life to what you wanted. He died on the cross for us. Since he surrendered his life for us, help us not to just live for ourselves but to live for him. Today, help us learn to trust you with the control of our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Today, we will begin with seeing the temptations of Jesus, especially the second one. The second one is when Satan tempts Jesus to do something entirely foolish – to jump off a very tall building. But that would be like tempting God to protect him when he does thoughtless

things. It would also be like trying to get God to do a magic trick. It would be like trying to control God. Let's watch the video.

Video

Show the video, *The Animated Stories from the New Testament: Jesus, the Son of God* by Nest Family Entertainment (1990) www.nestfamily.com. Show the temptation of Jesus.

After the video, continue with:

I need a volunteer to come up who would be willing to read two verses from the Bible.

Have the volunteer read Psalm 91:11-12.

Now let me ask you something. Is this God's word? (Yes.) Is it true? (Yes.) Now when Satan had Jesus standing on the top of the temple, this would be like jumping off a six-story building. So here is the question, "If God's word is true and if he says he will protect you, then why not throw yourself off the top of the building and show everyone how powerful God is?" What would be your answer to that? (Take any answer.)

When Satan used God's word to tempt him, Jesus used God's word to answer. Jesus said, "Scripture says, 'never tempt the Lord your God.'" That is like testing God and trying to get him to show his love or care for you just in the ways you want. In a way, it's trying to control God. We're not to control God.

Pause and let the volunteer be seated. Take out the video control.

Here is a control like many of you have played with before. When you press one of these buttons, the characters in the video game either jump or move in a certain way. Sometimes we can get very confused and think that God can be controlled just as easily. We think that he must do just what we want, and if he doesn't, he doesn't love us. By remembering God's promise to protect, Satan suggested that we control God and make him protect us even when we do something foolish.

Option: If you use a marionette puppet instead of a video game control, adapt your script accordingly. Add:

Sometimes we think that God should prove himself to us by doing just what we want him to do. That's like being on the end of this marionette string like a puppet.

Hands of Surrender

Maybe there are other ways in our life that we think we can control God. Maybe we think that because we pray to him, we control him. We think he should answer our prayers just the way we want, but not according to his will. We're not in control. God is in control. So what are we to do? Let me take this control along with the sign that says, "I'm in control" and give it away to the Surrender Hands.

Surrender Hands appear from behind the screen. Hand over the sign.

Now instead of me trying to control God, this is what I get when I surrender to him.

The Surrender Hands return with the sign that says, "God's perfect control over my life."

Professor holds the sign and says, **This is what I get—God's perfect control over my life. This means when I face real situations that might be scary or when I'm really worried or have problems I can't control, I know that God has perfect control over my life. I can trust him and he will take care of it.**

What does this feel like? It feels like this.

Surrender Hands pass out a small blanket.

This small blanket reminds me of a security blanket. Maybe you had one when you were a little child and it made you feel safe and secure. God is much more than a blanket. A blanket can remind us that when God is in perfect control, it's like being covered in security. We feel safe and secure.

Practical Trusting Object Lesson Activity

Let's practice letting go of some of our control and seeing what it feels like. I need nine volunteers. We are going to do some backwards trust falls. One person will trust the other eight to catch him/her. This volunteer will stand straight and stiff, and then fall back, trusting the other eight to catch him/her.

Have the volunteers come forward. The eight people behind the volunteer will make two rows facing each other. They all stand with their elbows to their side and their palms up and straight out in front of them. The two lines of four need to be close enough to each other that they are almost touching the person across from them. Do not lock hands. For extra security, alternate placement of the hands.

Have the volunteer who is “trusting” or giving up control, stand stiff with arms crossed in front. The volunteer will “trust” the eight volunteers to catch him/her at different levels three times: once from the floor, once from a chair and once from a table.

Three safety issues to insist on:

1. The person falling *cannot bend at the waist* but must keep his/her back completely straight with legs stiff. If he/she bends, the stunt becomes dangerous.
2. The faller must keep arms crossed over his/her chest and not try to catch himself/herself with their hands. Flailing hands can poke catcher-kids in the eye.
3. Make sure all the catchers’ hands are at the same level and everyone is ready to catch the volunteer and watching him/her when he/she starts to fall. If all catchers are not alert and fully engaged in the process, the faller might slip through and be hurt, or the weight of the faller might be placed disproportionately on one or two of the catchers and they might be injured.

If you insist on these three rules, the trust fall can be a fun and safe experience for everyone as well as a great teaching device for today’s learning point.

Interview the student who trusted to see what it felt like to let go of control and fall backwards. Was it easier or harder as he/she fell a second and third time, each time from higher up?

Interview Questions:

Have you ever done this before? Usually the first one is the hardest.

When is it scariest? *(Usually just before you’re caught.)*

This is like faith—trusting that God will be in control in situations that are beyond our control. He always catches us and never lets us go.

Final gospel point:

When did Jesus have to trust his Heavenly Father the most? *(When he went to the cross to die for the sin of the world. Jesus had to trust that his Father would raise him from the dead. Because of Jesus’ resurrection, our sin was forgiven and we, too, can trust God, knowing that we are safe in his control.)*

Closing prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us Jesus who surrendered his life for us. Now we want to surrender ourselves to you. Sometimes we think we can control everything in our lives and make things go the way we want. Sometimes we think we can control you. But that’s not true. We surrender that desire to control over to you and ask that you take perfect control over our lives. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

My control

**God's perfect
control over
my life.**