



Date: _____

Series: Jesus is God's Son
Winter Year 2, Lesson 35

The Temptation of Jesus

Bible Event: Matthew 4:1-11; James 4:7

Take Home Point: *JESUS HELPS ME – Say “No!” to sin.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus is the Victor over sin. Because I trust in him, I can have victory, too.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn that we all are tempted sometimes – kids, grown-ups, and even Jesus was tempted by the devil. To be tempted means that the devil tries to get us to do something that we know we shouldn't do. Jesus helps us fight these temptations. Jesus is in our heart and helps us resist the devil's temptations. Kids will take home the point: **JESUS HELPS ME – Say “No!” to sin.**
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: *The Miracle Maker: The Story of Jesus*; SAF and Christmas Films, 1999.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit From "The Traveler"

The Traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat, and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's Word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Traveler: Walks in and takes a big drink from a canteen. **I have been traveling in the desert. It sure is hot there! There is hardly any water and I had to walk on hot sand. It reminds me of a time that Jesus spent in the desert. Let me tell you this true event from the Bible.**

When Jesus was a man, God's Spirit led him into the desert. He went there to think and pray, and he didn't have anything to eat for forty days and forty nights. He was hungry and weak. You won't believe what happened next. The devil came to tempt Jesus. The devil knew that Jesus was weak and tired, so he decided he would pick on Jesus. He tempted him three times. Hold up three fingers and count aloud.

Since the devil knew that Jesus was hungry, he tried to tempt him to eat something first. He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Pull out some fake or real rocks. Even though Jesus was very hungry, he said no. He knew it was wrong to do what the devil said. He knew it was wrong to use God's power to feed himself. Instead, Jesus trusted that God would take care of him.

Jesus said to the devil, “God’s word says, ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from God.’”

When that didn’t work, the devil tried to tempt Jesus a second time. He took Jesus high on top of a temple in a holy city. Then he tried to trick Jesus. He told Jesus, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down off this temple roof. For the Bible says, ‘God will command the angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Again, Jesus knew it was wrong to do what the devil said. It was not okay to do something like jump off a roof and expect God’s angels to dive down and protect you. Show a small angel doll or figurine. Jesus said to the devil, “The Bible also says, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Finally, the devil tried to tempt Jesus a third time. He took him to a high mountaintop. He showed Jesus of the kingdoms and cities in the world. He said to Jesus, “If you bow down and worship me, I will give you all of these kingdoms.” Show a crown. Of course, Jesus knew this was a lie. All of the kingdoms already belonged to God. Finally Jesus said, “Away from me, devil! The Bible says ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

After that third time, the devil left. Then God sent angels to be with Jesus.

All of the time Jesus was being tempted, he used the power of God’s word to help him. You and I get tempted, too. We can fight the devil by listening to and following God’s word. The way we do that is by having Jesus in our heart. Jesus will help us follow God’s word and do what God wants us to do. He helps us trust God and know that we will always be taken care of. We all go through temptations and rough times – Jesus will be there to help. Remember: ***JESUS HELPS ME – Say “NO!” to sin.**

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Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Create a “desert” snack by spreading butter and then sprinkling cinnamon-sugar on a slice of bread. Another option: rock candy.

Drama Zone: Provide blocks and/or play dough for kids to build a temple or create rocks and mountains.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to practice saying no to temptations. Have one puppet suggest a temptation (*like eating cookies before dinner*) and have the other puppets practice saying “no.”

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of the Temptation of Jesus from today’s Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #102, “Jesus says ‘no’ to Satan” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Provide small rocks for children to paint. Also provide half sheets of cardstock with the following poem for them to keep their rocks on when they take them home:

“Jesus’ Temptation”

Think of this rock
And remember when
At Jesus’ temptation
He said “no” to sin!

Also attach a pre-made label to the cardstock saying “Jesus helps me say ‘no’ to sin.” Kids can also decorate the cardstock sheets if time permits.

Play Zone: Set up a simple hopscotch pattern on the floor with masking tape. Have children use a rock to throw onto one of the squares. As they hop by and pick up the rock, they need to name a sin and say “NO!” to it.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jesus’ temptation.

Music Zone: Sing the song, “*When I Am Weak*,” which can be found on the CD titled, *Each Day*, by Angela Naeve.

Coloring Zone: “The Temptation of Jesus” coloring page



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy comes out feeling nervous. She feels like temptation is all around her. For instance, there's a cookie on a plate on the stage. She feels very tempted to eat it – it's her favorite kind – but she knows that lunch is coming up and she shouldn't eat that cookie right before lunch. She doesn't know how she's ever going to make it with such temptations all around her.

The large group presenter knows that dealing with sin and temptation can be really hard. He tells Judy that it's ok to feel scared of sin sometimes. Even grown-ups have to face sin and temptation. The best way to not be scared, though, is to know that Jesus helps us fight temptation. The presenter explains that when Jesus is in our heart, he helps us to know what is right and wrong. He gives us strength to make the kinds of decisions that we know God would want us to make. When we say "no" to sin, it makes the devil want to run away from us!

Judy feels a lot better. She knows that Jesus can help her say no to that cookie and to other sins, too! Remember: ***JESUS HELPS US – Say "No!" to sin.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with hands. Finish with bringing the hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over the heart)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with the hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event
- fake or real rocks
- water canteen
- small angel doll or figurine
- crown

Action Zones:

Snack:

- sliced bread
- butter
- cinnamon-sugar mixture
- *Optional:* rock candy

Drama:

- blocks
- play dough

Craft:

- white card stock half sheets (with poem)
- small rocks
- newspaper
- various colors of paint
- paint brushes
- crayons and markers
- pre-made label: “Jesus helps me say no to sin”

Play:

- masking tape
- a small rock

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- “*When I Am Weak*” (on a CD called *Each Day*) by Angela Naeve or other choice of music—order from [http://christian-book-store.christiansunite.com/CD92720/Each-Day,-Compact-Disc-\(CD\).shtml](http://christian-book-store.christiansunite.com/CD92720/Each-Day,-Compact-Disc-(CD).shtml)

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #102, “Jesus says ‘no’ to Satan” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt.*)

Coloring page:

- “The Temptation of Jesus”

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet
- plate with a cookie

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

“Jesus’ Temptation”

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And remember when
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