



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Jesus Is the King  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 35

# God Trains the King

**Take Home Point:** \*God's word helps us fight Satan.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Matthew 4:1-11

**Key Verse:** Hebrews 4:12: "God's word is living and active. It is sharper than any two-edged sword..."

**We will help kids know:**

- Jesus was tempted like any other human but he overcame the temptation by using God's Word.
- We have the weapon of God's Word available to us.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Confident of the power they have over the devil.
- Armed and ready to go!

**We will help kids do:**

- Memorize scripture as a weapon against the devil.
- Make a bookmark as a tool to help remind them that God's Word is a sword.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3-4	Kids play a game called "Temptation" to see what it takes to tempt another person to smile. Today the kids will learn how Jesus was in training with God so he knew exactly what to do when he was tempted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no supplies are needed</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7-9  9  10	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Gordy Goes for the Light Saber"  <b>Video:</b> <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew</i>  <b>Puppet Presentation Conclusion:</b> "Gordy Goes for the Light Saber"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Star Wars</i> video (optional) amazon.com</li> <li>trick balloon, flashlight, and duct tape or wide masking tape to make a light saber</li> <li>memory verse cards (p 11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ephesians 6:1</li> <li>James 2:1</li> <li>Ephesians 5:4</li> <li>Colossians 3:9-10</li> <li>Ephesians 4:32</li> </ul> </li> <li>video, <i>The Visual Bible: Matthew</i> 4:1-11. (Visual International and Visual Entertainment, Inc., 1997 www.christianbook.com)</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5-6	The kids will make a sword bookmark to help remind them of this. Then play a game that helps the kids memorize this scripture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sword copied on card stock for each child (p 13)</li> <li>aluminum foil</li> <li>scissors</li> <li>tape</li> <li>small stickers</li> <li>two sets of the Hebrews 4:12 memory game cards for each group (p12)</li> <li>copy of the memory verses from large group for each child to take home</li> </ul>

# 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.*

## "Temptation Game"

Since we are talking about temptation today, remember to use the word "temptation" as you refer to the actions of the game.

**Today we are going to play a game called "Temptation." One child will be "it." He will make faces, do silly actions, or do whatever it takes to tempt another person to smile. Try not to smile. If anyone smiles while they are being tempted or even while watching another person getting tempted, that person becomes a tempter as well. So several of you might end up tempting others to smile.**

**Who do you think will be the last person to keep from smiling? The winner is the person who can keep a straight face until everyone else is out!**

After you have played this game once, ask the winner these questions:

**Was it always easy to keep a straight face? Did you have a trick that helped you keep from laughing that you can share with the rest of us? Would you train us to do that?**

Allow the child to teach his technique to the group. Then play the game again with the winner starting as "it." Then ask:

**Did it help to have training? Did it seem easier to resist the temptation of laughing?**

**In our last lesson about Jesus' baptism, God said, "This is my Son, whom I love." Jesus knew that when something very special happens to us (like baptism), the devil will attack because he does not like to see us grow. So, Jesus went into training. He went into the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. While he was there, he was tempted by the devil.**

**Think about the game we just played. Who was the tempter? What was he/she trying to get us to do? What were we trying *not* to do? Can anyone describe what it means to be tempted? *(When we have thoughts suggesting that we do something we know is wrong.)***

**In the game we played, how did we get training?**

Today we will hear how Jesus was in training with God so he knew exactly what to do when he was tempted. We can be in training, too. Today we will see what the King did to resist temptation. Then we can learn to do the same. *\*God's word helps us fight Satan.*

If time allows, you might consider this discussion question.

**What are some things that tempt you?** (*Give some examples to get kids started. For example: disobeying parents, saying mean things about someone else, telling or listening to a dirty joke, lying not to get in trouble, etc.*)

## Large Group: 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.*

### Overview

#### **Puppet Presentation:** "Gordy Goes for the Light Saber"

Gordy gave in when tempted and stole a *Star Wars* video. Now he learns how Satan is behind the many temptations that we face. God's word is the sword that is our protection. Mr. King makes a light saber with trick balloon, flashlight, and tape. The lights are turned out for special effect. Then five temptations are mentioned. After each temptation, a child volunteer from the audience who has been tempted in such a way, comes forward to read the verse and wield the sword.

**Video:** *The Visual Bible: Matthew*---Show Matthew 4:1-11.

**Puppet Presentation Conclusion:** "Gordy Goes for the Light Saber"

## 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?**

Have kids refer to Matthew 4:1-11 in their Bibles for the following.

**What did Jesus do immediately after he was baptized?** *(Matthew 4:1-2. He went out into the desert and fasted for 40 days and 40 nights.)*

**What three ways did the devil tempt Jesus and how did Jesus respond?** *(Matthew 4:1-11. Satan tried to get Jesus to: 1) turn stones into bread, 2) to jump from the highest part of the temple so the angels would protect him, 3) took him to a high mountain and promised to give Jesus all he could see if Jesus would bow down and worship Satan. In each temptation, Jesus spoke truth and God's word back to Satan.)*

## **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

**Why do you think Jesus went to the desert for 40 days? Do you think he guessed that Satan would try to tempt him? What do you think he was doing during the 40 days?** *(Fasting and Praying)* **Why do you think it was important for Jesus to fast and pray?**

**Do you think it was easier for Jesus to resist temptation than it is for you?** *(Allow time for the children to respond, but make sure by the end of this discussion they understand that Jesus was a human being just as we are. His temptations would have been just as great as our temptations are. In fact, when we grow stronger in the Lord, it seems the devil works that much harder on us.)*

**Jesus always referred back to scripture to fight the devil.** *(See Matthew 4:4,7,10.)* **How do you think Jesus learned that much scripture? Did he have time to go and look up a verse when the devil was tempting him?** *(No, he probably had to study and memorize just like we do.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**Jesus did some specific things to resist Satan's temptations. What could you use to resist temptation when Satan comes to you?** *(Just tell him to get lost. Memorize scripture and use it to fight him.)*

**What would you do right now if Satan was bothering you?** *(Talk with the children about any reasonable response.)*

Application Activity:

**Today we learned *\*God's word helps us fight Satan.* We are going to make a sword to help remind you that God's word acts like a two-edged sword.**

Have each child cut out his sword following the design already printed on cardstock. Then have the children wrap the sword with aluminum foil.

**This sword will be a bookmark for your Bible. It will help you remember that God's word is like a two-edged sword. In fact, let's memorize that verse now. Hebrews 4:12 says, *"God's word is living and active. It is sharper than any two-edged sword..."***

**Let's memorize this verse in a fun way. See these two stacks of cards? They are the words for our Bible verse. I am going to split our group into two teams and each team will get a set of cards. When I tell you to start, each team will put the words of the Bible verse in order. When you have the verse in order, everyone in your group reads it together. The first team to finish wins.**

Play the game a couple more times changing people in the group each time. Afterward, each child who can say the Bible verse gets a small sticker on his sword.

**In preparing for any contest, one needs to practice. Jesus had to learn and memorize God's word to fight Satan. If Jesus needed to train, so must we.**

**Your sword is a bookmark for your Bible. Every Sunday you bring it, I will give you a sticker for every new Bible verse you can say to me for that week. Let's see if we can fill the sword up with stickers.**

Hand out a copy of the Bible verses used in large group for the children to learn at home and report back to you.

**Remember that we learned today *\*God's word helps us fight Satan.***

Closing Prayer:

Close with prayer, taking time to talk to the children about their needs and thanking God for the weapons he gives us against Satan.

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## **“Gordy Goes for the Light Saber”**

### **Puppet Presentation**

The following script calls for volunteers from the audience and flash cards with Bible verses written on them. Also needed is a light saber, which is made by taping a trick balloon (a long thin balloon used for tying animals) to a bright long-handled flashlight. (The best tape for this is duct tape or wide masking tape.)

**Mr. King: Hi, Gordy! How are you?**

Gordy: *(Sadly and slowly.)* Oh...Hi, Mr. King...

**Mr. King: Gordy, what’s wrong?**

Gordy: Well, I made a bad mistake.

**Mr. King: What did you do?**

Gordy: I’m afraid I stole a *Star Wars* video and my mom caught me.

**Mr. King: No wonder you’re sad. What happened?**

Gordy: Clarence O’ Kelly and I were at the store and he showed me how easy it was to put a video in my backpack. I could walk out and no one would know.

**Mr. King: Is that what you did, Gordy?**

Gordy: Yeah. When I got home my mom checked for my homework. She found the video in my backpack. But I’m kinda glad she found it. I felt so bad about taking it.

**Mr. King: What are you going to do?**

Gordy: Well, I’ll return it and I’ll write an apology letter. I promised my mom I wouldn’t steal anything again. Oh, yeah. I had to ask God for his forgiveness.

**Mr. King: It sounds like things are getting better.**

Gordy: Yeah, but I don’t understand something. I don’t understand why I did it! I know better than that.

**Mr. King: Gordy, you were tempted and you gave in to temptation.**

Gordy: Was that when Clarence O' Kelly showed me how to sneak the video in my backpack?

Mr. King: **Yes, it was. But it wasn't just Clarence O' Kelly. Did you know that Satan has power to put those thoughts in your mind and tempt you? Satan even uses people like Clarence to help suggest temptations.**

Gordy: Oh, that sounds spooky. Is that how Satan works?

Mr. King: **Yes, Satan can use people to suggest what is wrong. Sometimes he can just use thoughts.**

Gordy: Thoughts like, "Hmm...That *Star Wars* video looks great. I bet I could watch it a hundred times. I sure wish I had it. I think I could take it so easily..." I guess I know what you mean, Mr. King. Do you ever get tempted to do wrong?

Mr. King: **Every day. I just want to be ready to answer temptation by knowing God's word. God's word is like a sword.**

Gordy: A sword? Cool! Maybe it's like a light saber from *Star Wars*.

Mr. King: **The Bible calls God's word a double-edged sword. (That means it's sharp on both sides.) I think you could probably call it a light saber.**

Gordy: How does it work?

Mr. King: **Well, let's just make a light saber and find out.**

Gordy: No way! Cool!

Mr. King: **I'm going to tape this flashlight and balloon together to make a pretend light saber. (*Makes the light saber and continues.*) Now can I have someone turn off all the lights? Let's see if it works. (*Waves light saber in dark as sound effects are made.*)**

Gordy: Way cool, Mr. King! But how is that like God's word?

Mr. King: **God's word is like the light that cuts through the power of darkness and temptation, just like this light saber cuts through the darkness. And I'll show you how some kids can use God's word. I'll need a volunteer. This volunteer will have to be able to remember a time when he was tempted to disobey his parents.**

Have a volunteer come forward.



*(To the child.) Can you tell us quickly about a time you were tempted to disobey your parents. Maybe you even did disobey them. Gordy, this is how God's word works like a light saber. I'm giving to this child this Bible verse card with Ephesians 6:1 on it. He can read the verse out loud. (If the child cannot read the words, he can repeat them as Mr. King reads them.)*

Mr. King continues the interview process by calling up other children and asking the following questions. Bible verse flash cards correspond with the questions and are read by a child after he answers a question.

**Mr. King: Has anyone here ever been tempted to say bad things about another person or just been mean to another person?**

Have a volunteer come up to share and read James 2:1.

**Has anyone been tempted to tell or listen to a dirty joke?**

Volunteer shares and reads Ephesians 5:4. Continuing the same with the next two questions.

**Has anyone been tempted to lie? (Colossians 3:9-10)**

**Has anyone been tempted to hold a grudge against someone and not forgive him or her? (Ephesians 4:32)**

Gordy: That's really cool. I like how God's word helps us not fall for Satan's temptations.

**Mr. King: In fact, Jesus used God's word to fight Satan.**

Gordy: Did Jesus get tempted?

**Mr. King: Yes, he did. Satan tempted Jesus. But Jesus used God's word and did what God wanted, and Satan couldn't trick him. It happened at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, and it was the way God trained Jesus before he started his ministry.**

Gordy: Did Jesus use a light saber?

**Mr. King: No, just God's word. Here. Let's watch the story in today's Bible video. This is from Matthew 4:1-11.**

Show the video, The Visual Bible: Matthew 4:1-11.

## **“Gordy Goes for the Light Saber”**

### **Puppet Presentation Conclusion**

**Gordy:** Wow! Satan was really trying to get Jesus, wasn't he?

**Mr. King:** **He sure was. But most of all Satan wants to have the power to keep us from God.**

**Gordy:** He can't do that, can he?

**Mr. King:** **Not if we trust in Jesus as our rescuer. Remember that Jesus defeated the devil by giving his life for us on the cross. Because of that, we can be forgiven and be friends with God no matter what!**

**Gordy:** Oh, yeah. And when we hear Satan telling us how easy it is to do stuff that God doesn't want and how we won't get caught...well, then we can use God's word to fight Satan.

**Mr. King:** **Now you've got it, Gordy. Will you close us with prayer?**

**Gordy:** Sure Mr. King. Dear God, once again I really am sorry I stole that video. But I know that you forgave me. Thanks for doing that and still being my friend. Help all of us to use God's word to fight the devil when he tempts us. I remember what you said in the Bible, that we can know that you forgive us and love us no matter what. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Ephesians 6:1**

“Children, obey your parents because you are Christians. This is the right thing to do.”

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### **James 2:1**

“My brothers and sisters, practice your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ by not favoring one person over another.”

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### **Ephesians 5:4**

“It’s not right that dirty stories, foolish talk, or obscene jokes should be mentioned among you either. Instead, give thanks to God.”

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### **Colossians 3:9-10**

“Don’t lie to each other. You’ve gotten rid of the person you used to be and the life you used to live and you’ve become a new person.”

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### **Ephesians 4:32**

“Be kind to each other, sympathetic, forgiving each other as God has forgiven you through Christ.”

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**Hebrews  
4:12**

**God's word**

**is living**

**and active.**

**It is sharper**

**than any**

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