



Date: _____
Series: Meet the Amazing Jesus
Winter Year 3, Lesson 36

Overcome Temptation

Take Home Point: *We can choose God's way when tempted. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Luke 4:1-13. The temptation of Jesus.

Key Verse: James 4:7, "So place yourselves under God's authority. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Jesus' temptation.
- To tempt us, Satan says, "God's way is not the best way."
- Knowing the truth of the Bible and doing it is the way to respond to Satan's lie. Then we resist the devil and submit ourselves to God's authority.




We will help kids feel:

- The tension as they face the temptation to do a classroom activity their way or the shepherd's way.
- Security in Jesus who has resisted temptation and gives them the power to resist the devil, as well.

We will help kids do:

- Identify major areas of temptation in their lives.
- Learn to use God's word to resist the devil and place themselves under God's authority.
- Eat a snack reminding them of the power of the cross to resist temptation.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids are tempted not to eat M&M's.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • five M&M's per child • paper
Large Group 	4 8 9 11	Overview Video: <i>"The Miracle Maker,"</i> by Family Entertainment, Inc. Show the story of Jesus' temptation. Object Lesson: "An Object Lesson Telling of Jesus' Temptation" – Mr. King uses a disappearing card to illustrate how we can resist the devil with God's Word and he will flee from us. "Gordy's Review Questions:" The Temptation of Jesus – Gordy tries to remember the facts of the Bible event but needs a volunteer who was paying attention to help him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set design and props for series • "The Instant Change" gospel illusion trick – order through Dock Haley – www.gospelmagic.com • bread • jewelry or crown • butterfly net or tennis shoes • <i>optional:</i> storage tub with at least 18" sides or lined trash can • Bible
Small Group Application 	4	Kids identify major areas of temptation in their lives. They eat a snack reminding them of the power of the cross to resist temptation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • newspaper • bowl of chocolate syrup • a styrofoam plate per child • two marshmallows per child • cotton swabs

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.

Each group will need a set amount of M&M's. It is important that the shepherd know how many M&M's he will pass out. (Perhaps five candies per student.) The shepherd needs a clean sheet of paper in the center of the group so that the M&M's can be placed on them.

The shepherd's instructions to the kids are simple.

I will give each of you some M&M's. But, I would like you to combine all of your M&M's to make an M&M arrow on this sheet of paper.

Give each child his/her M&M's.

Each one of you should use all your M&M's. As you make the arrow, I would like every M&M to touch each other. You will have to find a way to take turns so that everyone uses his or her M&M's. After you are finished, we will take a look at the arrow. If it looks good enough, we might be able to eat it.



During this exercise, children will be tempted to eat some of the candies in their hands. This will be especially true since the children will have to patiently wait as others line their M&M's up in the arrow on the paper.

After the children have completed the arrow, the shepherd continues.

Let's count the M&M's. I know how many I gave you when we started. There should be (total amount of M&M's) in this arrow.

If some M&M's are missing:

I see that we don't quite have that many right now. Maybe you could tell me what happened to the missing M&M's.

If all M&M's are present and accounted for:

I can see that all the M&M's are here. Did any of you have a hard time resisting the urge to eat one of those while you were waiting your turn to put one into the arrow?

Can anyone tell me what "temptation" means?

Temptation is when you want to choose your way of doing things rather than the way you are supposed to do it. In this case, you may have been tempted to do it your way, eating some M&M's versus my way, using all the M&M's to make an arrow.

How did you feel with the M&M's in your hand, maybe wanting to eat them? Who chose to eat one? Who chose not to? Why do you think we made an arrow? An arrow reminds us that God's way for us is right.

Turn the paper so the arrow is pointing upward.

Sometimes Satan tempts us to resist doing things God's way or doing what is best for us. Satan wants us to do whatever we want. Satan wants to say to us, "God's way is not the best way. My way is the best way."

Today we will find out more about temptation and how God can give us victory over the temptations in our lives. **We can choose God's way when tempted.*

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.*

Video: "The Miracle Maker," by Family Entertainment, Inc. Show the clip containing the temptation of Jesus.

Object Lesson: "An Object Lesson Telling of Jesus' Temptation"—Mr. King uses a disappearing card to illustrate how we can resist the devil with God's word and he will flee from us.

"Gordy's Review Questions:" The Temptation of Jesus—Gordy tries to remember the facts of the Bible event but needs a volunteer who was paying attention to help him.

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 Luke 4:1-13 in their Bibles.

What were the three ways the devil tempted Jesus in this Bible event? (Luke 4:3, 5-7, 9-11. 1. He told Jesus to turn the stone into a loaf of bread. 2. He took him to a high place and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and said he would give Jesus the power and glory of these kingdoms if Jesus would bow down and worship him. 3. The devil took Jesus into Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest part of the temple and told him to jump off so that God's angels would have to save him.)

How did Jesus respond to each of these temptations? (Luke 4:4,8,10. He quoted scripture.)

What did the devil do after he had tempted Jesus in every possible way? (Luke 4:13. He left him.)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Jesus could have done all of the things that Satan asked him to do, but he chose God's way instead. God led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted for a reason. What do you think that reason was?

Jesus was tempted, but never sinned. Can you be tempted and not sin? (Yes. Think about if it is God's way. If it is not, Satan is probably whispering in your ear. Do just like Jesus: Resist the devil, use God's word and he will flee!)

Luke 4:13 says that Jesus was tempted in every possible way. Do you think it was hard for Jesus not to sin? Do you think Jesus can understand how you feel when you are tempted to do something Satan's way instead of God's way?

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: newspaper spread on the floor, a bowl filled with chocolate syrup, a styrofoam plate and two marshmallows for each child, cotton swabs.

Have the kids make a floor covering of the newspaper and gather around the bowl of chocolate syrup which is placed in the middle of the newspaper. Ask the kids to remember what it felt like to be tempted at the beginning of Kingdom Quest when they had the M&M's in their hands.

Let's talk about the real temptations that we face at school and at home. What are some of the things that the devil would try to get us to do so that we would not follow God's way?

Allow discussion of typical temptations kids today face.

Think about another very important question, but I don't want you to say your answer out loud. During the next week, Satan will probably tempt you to do something *not* to follow God's way. What do you think Satan might tempt you to do?

When you think of something, take the cotton swab and dip it into the chocolate syrup. Paint a picture on your styrofoam plate of what that temptation is. Your picture does not have to be great art but try to make it good enough so that other people can guess your temptation.

As the kids are drawing their temptations, talk about the essence of temptation.

Satan tries to convince us that God's way is not the best way. Satan will say things like, "If you follow another way, it will be better, easier, or more fun." You must remember that God's way is really the best way, though. What can you do when this happens? (*Resist the devil; use God's word and Satan will flee.*)

After the kids have tried to guess each other's drawings, invite them to take a marshmallow in hand and do some mop up work. Explain the following points as you have kids use their marshmallows to make a cross through the chocolate syrup on their plates.

The Bible says in James 4:7, "*So place yourself under God's authority. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you.*"

We resist the devil by using God's word – that's how we place ourselves under God's authority. We do what God wants. Sometimes God's way is the hardest way, but his way is always the best way.

Jesus resisted the devil and did what God wanted. God's way was for Jesus to give his life for us on the cross. When Jesus did that he paid for the forgiveness of all our sins. That is how Jesus can mop up all the sin and temptation in our lives.

Take your marshmallow and make the sign of a cross. When you do this, think about how Jesus gave his life for you. When you trust Jesus, he lives in your life so that you can resist the devil and the devil will flee. **We can choose God's way when tempted.*

After the children have all made signs of the cross on their plates, you might talk more about the power that we have through Jesus' death and resurrection. A second marshmallow can then be provided for each child to finish cleaning up his plate. Cleaning up their plates represents the fact that, as we call on Jesus' power, Satan does flee. We can then have victory over temptation.

Closing Prayer:

Pray for specific temptations the children face and thank God for Jesus' example of resisting temptation with God's word. Ask for God's power through Jesus' forgiveness of sin to resist Satan. Pray for all to want to understand God's word better.

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Large Group Presentation

Take Home Point: **We can choose God's way when tempted.*

Set design and props needed for this series will include a large sign that reads "Meet the Amazing Jesus." In addition to this sign, hang smaller signs in the front of the room with the word "Amazing" printed on each one.

Prompt kids to say, "Simply amaaaazing," when the presenter points up and says, "And THAT is..." A sweeping arm gesture by the large group presenter as the kids say, "simply amaaaa-a-azing" will add effect and emphasis. Use this technique as an attention grabber when presenting the main points.

There are three sections in today's large group presentation. The first section is a video presentation of the Bible event. The second section is a retelling of the event using an amazing object lesson. In the third section, Gordy, the puppet, helps kids review.

Adapt this lesson to use one or all of the following the parts depending on availability of videos and/or illusion tricks.

PART ONE

Begin with the animated video, *"The Miracle Maker,"* by Family Entertainment, Inc. Show the clip of Jesus' temptation.

Next, call Gordy out and ask that he would come back after the lesson has been taught. Gordy will help with the review questions. Adlibbing these conversations is most effective, as long as it is kept brief.

PART TWO

"An Object Lesson Telling of Jesus' Temptation"

Illustrations and Script for the Presenter

Props needed: a box or storage bin (the tub needs to have deep enough walls to prevent the kids from seeing the presenter pulling something from his sleeve), illusion trick, a piece of bread, jewelry (or crown), a butterfly net (or tennis shoes)

Have you ever heard anyone say, "I have nothing up my sleeve?" Guess what! Today there will be something up your sleeve!

The presenter will use a cleverly designed gospel illusion trick to demonstrate the devil vanishing. In this trick, a card with the face of Satan will vanish up his sleeve at precisely the right time. With a little practice this is done very easily, but it does take a little practice!

What makes this trick an effective learning tool is the words that will be used when the trick happens. The chant to be used and actions are as follows. In the introduction you will practice this responsive chant with the kids, though you will not show the vanishing trick until you are telling the Bible event. This is the chant:

Presenter: Resist the devil.

Kids: Use God's word . . .

The presenter holds up a Bible and waves it between the audience and the card trick.

Presenter: ... and he will flee. (The devil disappears.)

All together it sounds like, "Resist the devil. Use God's word. And he will flee."

Re-tell the story with the object lesson as follows.

Introduction:

Kids, I need your help telling today's Bible event. I have some special words that I would like you to repeat. These are important words, because this is the key to making the devil flee. Here's how it works. Anytime I say, "Resist the devil," you respond and say, "Use God's word." Then I will finish the saying with, "And he will flee."

Shall we try it? "Resist the devil." "Use God's word." "And he will flee."

Great! Let's practice one more time... "Resist the devil." "Use God's word." "And he will flee." Now, we are ready.

Telling of the Story:

Reach into the storage tub and act like you are picking up the devil card. In fact, you pull the devil card out of your sleeve and hold it in your hand.

Presenter: The following Bible event is found in Luke 4:1-13. The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness so that he might be tempted by the devil. In doing this, God was preparing Jesus for his ministry. For forty days, the devil tempted Jesus.

Reach into the tub and pull the bread out with one hand and show the loaded card (devil) in the other hand.

Presenter: The devil said, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

Jesus answered, “Scripture says, ‘A person cannot live on bread alone.’” So what happened? Resist the devil...

Kids: Use God’s word . . .

Pick up the Bible and wave it between the audience and the card trick.

Presenter: ... and he will flee. The devil card disappears.

Return the bread to the tub and reload the devil card from your sleeve. Then pick up the jewelry (or crown). You might even mention that you are picking up another devil card. Show the jewelry (or crown) in one hand and the loaded card (devil) in the other hand.

Presenter: Then the devil took Jesus to a very high place and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said to Jesus, “I will give you all the power and glory of these kingdoms if you will just worship me.”

Jesus knew God’s word. He said, “Scripture says, ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” Resist the devil...

Kids: Use God’s word...

Pick up the Bible and wave it between the audience and the card trick.

Presenter: ... and he will flee. The devil card disappears again.

Return the jewels to the tub. Reload the devil card from your sleeve. In the other hand, take out a butterfly net (or tennis shoes).

Presenter: Then the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest part of the temple. The devil said, “If you are the Son of God, jump from here.” Satan used God’s word but he used it the wrong way when he said next, “Doesn’t the Bible say, ‘God will put angels around you to watch over you so you won’t even hit your foot against the rock?’”

Jesus used God’s word the right way. He said, “It has been said, ‘Never tempt the Lord your God.’” What happened? Resist the Devil...

Kids: Use God’s word...

Pick up the Bible and wave it between the audience and the card trick.

Presenter: ... and he will flee. The devil disappears.

**What do you think, kids? That is simply amaaaazing ... But it is true!
Resist the devil...**

Kids: Use God's word...

Pick up the Bible and wave it between the audience and the card trick.

Presenter: ... and he will flee. The devil disappears.

Point to an "amazing" sign and prompt kids to say, "Simply amaaaazing."

PART THREE

Gordy's Review Questions

The Temptation of Jesus

The following questions can be used for review of today's Bible event. This will be a contest between Gordy and the kids. Gordy assigns a scoring value to each question before that question is read. That number is in parenthesis at the beginning of the question. What makes it fun is that Gordy finally gets one correct at the end and that number helps him make a dramatic comeback. The kids typically win, but it might be interesting if, from time to time, Gordy wins. Adjust to your preference. One thing is important and will be vital to this script: move through your material quickly. By this time, the kids' attention spans are short. You may even want to delete some of the questions if it is feeling a bit long.

After each question, the first parenthetical remark is Gordy's response. The second parenthetical remark is the correct answer from a child.

Kids might even bring their Bibles to large group to search for answers as they listen to the following questions.

1. (100 points) **Who led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted?**
(He took a taxi.)
(The Holy Spirit.)
2. (200 points) **Jesus ate nothing for forty days. The devil then told him to turn the stones into what?**
(Cheeseburgers.)
(Bread.) Right. He chose God's way.
3. (300 points) **Jesus replied to the devil with a scripture verse. This verse said that a person does not live on what?**

(In a terrible desert like this.)
(A person cannot live on bread alone.)

Further explanation:

Satan wanted Jesus to use his miraculous powers to feed himself. Jesus, instead, wanted to rely on his heavenly Father.

4. (400 points) **The next temptation Satan gave Jesus was to show him all the earthly splendor of the world. What did Satan ask Jesus to do?**
(“Go buy it for me.”)
(Bow down and worship him.) But he didn’t, because he chose God’s way.

Further explanation:

Satan suggested an easier way for Jesus to become king. Instead of becoming king of our hearts by going to the cross to die for our sins, Satan suggested that Jesus become an earthly king.

5. (500 points) **Who did Jesus tell Satan we should worship?**
(I don’t know.)
(“The Lord God and him only should you serve.”)
6. (2 points) **When Satan took Jesus to the top of the temple, what did he challenge Jesus to do?**
(Go hang gliding.)
(Jump.)

Further explanation:

Satan even used the Bible to quote a verse that read, “The angels will watch over you so that you don’t even dash your foot against the rocks.”

7. (58 points) **What was Jesus’ answer from the Bible to Satan?**
(“If God wanted people to fly, he would have given them wings.”)
(“Don’t tempt the Lord your God.”) He replied with scripture and chose God’s way.
8. (40 points) **The Bible verse today says, “Resist the devil and he will...” do what?**
(Tell his mommy.)
(Flee.)

Mr. King: So, group, what do we do when Satan tempts us? *(Choose God’s way!)*

Gordy, it seems that you haven’t been listening very well again. You weren’t even close in those answers. Or were you just fool’n around?

Gordy: Well, I guess I was just kinda fool’n around a bit, Mr. King.

Mr. King: Now why did you go and do that?

Gordy: I don't know. I guess the devil made me do it.

Mr. King: The devil doesn't *make* us do anything. He can tempt us, but he can't force us.

Gordy: Well, whatever... it worked. Mr. King, do you ever give in to temptation and mess up?

Mr. King: Truthfully? Yes, I do, Gordy.

Gordy: Then what do you do?

Mr. King: I ask God for forgiveness. I know that Jesus paid the price for my forgiveness when he died on the cross. When God forgives me, then he gives me power to resist the temptation next time.

Gordy: And then you can remember to use the Bible and remember what God says about doing what's right and what's wrong.

Mr. King: Exactly, Gordy! You've got it now. Why don't you close our time together with a prayer?

Gordy: Sure, Mr. King. Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus. I especially need his forgiveness when I goof up so much. Will you please help us to **choose God's way when tempted?* Thank you that we can resist the devil, use the Bible and he will flee from us. In Jesus' name. Amen.