



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Surrender U  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 47

# Jesus is Tempted: Come Down from the Cross

**Take Home Point:** \*Give up living for yourself—get life with God. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Matthew 16:22-23; 27:39-42; Luke 23:39. Satan uses many people to say, “Jesus, don’t give your life for others... Come down from the cross.”

**Key Verse:** Matthew 16:25, “Those who want to save their lives will lose them. But those who lose their lives for me will find them.”

**We will help kids know:**

- Satan often suggested to Jesus not to go through with sacrificing his life on the cross for the sins of the world. He spoke this message through others who were around Jesus.
- Jesus’ most important mission was to go to the cross and give his life as a sacrifice for us.
- Jesus challenges us to give up living for ourselves and follow him.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Convicted about how easy it is to live just for oneself.
- Assured that they can have life with God through trusting and following Jesus as their Savior.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify things that we “live for.”
- Examine the Bible and act on Christ’s challenge to live for him and others, not live just for us.
- Make a collage of pictures representing how our lives can be connected to Jesus.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids will discuss what is important to them and discern if it gets in the way of their relationship with God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>magazines or advertisement sections of the newspaper to cut pictures</li> <li>scissors</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	3  6  9  10	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Dramatic Presentation:</b> Professor Givitup Asks---Who are We Listening to?  <b>Teaching with the “Hands of Surrender”</b>  <b>Optional Personal Testimony:</b> A guest visitor shares what he/she has gone through with an addiction, a severe trial or difficulty in life and how they learned to surrender to God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mortar board cap and gown</li> <li>bold colored tie, poorly tied (feather boa or scarf for female professor) to wear outside the gown for comic effect</li> <li>white gloves</li> <li>volunteer to be Surrender Hands</li> <li>curtain or partitioned area</li> <li>white board, flip chart or chalkboard with Professor Givitup’s name and topic</li> <li>sign saying “Living for Self” (p. 12)</li> <li>four megaphones that can be as simple as rolled paper, each with a different label. OR, you’ll need one megaphone with four signs quickly attached. These signs or the labels on the four megaphones will say: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a cardstock cross (p. 11)</li> <li>a sample of craft project kids will make</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Kids consider surrendering to Jesus and living life with God. Their picture collages provide an example of surrendering things people can “live for.”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pictures from Warm-Up</li> <li>glue sticks</li> <li>cardstock crosses (p. 11)</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.*

**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.*

Begin with the following discussion:

**What are some things people live for? Or, what is really important to a person? For example, some kids might live to get good grades. That's very important to them. Someone else might live to play football. Maybe someone might live to be a really good friend to others. Are any of these things bad? No, of course not. But it can get in the way of a relationship with God, if it becomes the most important thing to that person or what they "live for."**

**After I have passed out these magazines, look for and cut out pictures of things or activities that people might "live for." We will use these pictures later on in the lesson.**

After the kids have cut out their pictures, let them describe and explain why they chose the pictures they did. Conclude with the following.

**Today we will see how Jesus was tempted by Satan to live just for himself and not go to the cross and give his life for others. What did Satan say to tempt Jesus to not fulfill his mission? We will find out today. We will also learn to *\*give up living for yourself—get life with God.***

## 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 Asks---Who are We Listening to?

**Teaching with the "Hands of Surrender"**

**Optional Personal Testimony:** A guest visitor shares what he/she has gone through with an addiction, a severe trial or difficulty in life and how they learned to surrender to God.

# 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?

**What four people or groups of people did Satan use to tempt Jesus not to give his life up for us on the cross?** *(Peter--- Matthew 16:21-23, the crowds at the foot of his cross---Matthew 27:39-40, the religious leaders---Matthew 27:41-43, the thief on the cross---Luke 23:39)*

## Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**What do you think was Jesus' main purpose on earth?** *(To go to the cross and give his life for the sin of the world.)*

**Why do you think Satan tried to keep Jesus from going to the cross and sacrificing his life?** *(By winning forgiveness, he would defeat the power of Satan's control.)*

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

**Because Jesus gave up living for himself, he earned for us salvation. That means that by trusting him as our Savior, we can have a life with him now and forever.**

**Have you trusted Jesus as your Savior? If you're not sure, you can be sure. You can place your trust in Jesus and pray a prayer that admits that you are a sinner and that you need the forgiveness Jesus offered when he died on the cross and gave his life for you. You can thank him and tell him that you want to receive the gift of his forgiveness and that you want to have his life living in yours. Even if you've prayed to him about your sins before, it's good to go to him often.**

Pray the following out loud as kids pray along in their hearts.

**Dear God, we admit that many times we live just for ourselves. We admit that we have sinned and are often times selfish. We need your forgiveness. So, we give up living for ourselves and trust in what Jesus has done for**

us. Jesus gave his life for us on the cross and he rose again. He is alive right now to live in our lives and we ask that Jesus would live in our hearts so that we will have life with you God, now and forever. In Jesus' name. Amen.

You can know for sure you have life with God now and forever. Let's look at Matthew 16:24-25. This describes what we've just prayed for.

*"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Those who want to come with me must say no to the things they want, pick up their crosses and follow me. Those who want to save their lives will lose them. But those who lose their lives for me will find them.'"*

Jesus is describing the surrender of our lives to him. That means we surrender living for us and in return get life with God. Some of the very things we've surrendered, God gives back in a much more wonderful way.

That's what today's craft is about. Remember the pictures we cut out that showed ways people live for themselves? When we surrender these to God, he gives us life. Life with him means that he gives us a much richer way to live.

Application Activity:

*Supplies: cut out pictures from Warm-Up, cardstock crosses, glue*

Have kids make a collage of these pictures affixed to the cross. NOTE: when gluing, have kids wrap the pictures tightly around the edges of the cross so that the shape of the cross is evident.

**Paste some of the things you enjoy doing to the cross because, as you surrender just living for these things to God, he will give them back to you in a much greater way so you get to live for him. When you *\*give up living for yourself—you get life with God.***

Closing Prayer:

Have each child specifically pray for help in surrendering things to God and praising him for how he will make their lives richer.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## Professor Givitup Asks: Who are We Listening to? 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
- volunteer to be Surrender Hands
- curtain or partitioned area
- white board, flip chart or chalkboard with Professor Givitup's name and topic
- sign saying "Living for Self"
- cross made of cardstock or construction paper
- a sample of craft project kids will make

*In the following presentation, you will need four megaphones that can be as simple as rolled paper, each with a different label. OR, you'll need one megaphone with four signs quickly attached. These signs or the labels on the four megaphones will say:*

- Peter
- Crowd
- Religious leaders
- Thieves

Have four students ready in advance to read the respective Bible verse. They should have their passages marked in their Bibles so they are prepared to read when prompted.

### Introduction:

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.**

Hold up some pictures that were cut out in small group Warm-Up.

**Today we have been talking about some things that people "live for." Many of these things are good things to do or to have. But, if they ever become more important than life with God, something is wrong. Maybe Satan has suggested that you live only for yourself. This can be seen in some of the pictures you have cut out.**

**We will discover that Satan made the same suggestion to Jesus. Satan suggested to Jesus that he live only for himself and not go to the cross to give his life for the sin of the world. It is a good thing for us that Jesus resisted that temptation and gave his life for us. Because of that, we can know Jesus as our Savior and *\*give up living for ourselves and get life with God.***

**First, what are the ways that Satan said to Jesus, “Just live for you. Don’t sacrifice your life for others” or “Don’t go to the cross?” Here are four voices he used.**

Have the volunteer readers line up quickly in front ready to read. Pick up the megaphone labeled Peter. Continue as follows:

Peter:

Ask the first volunteer to read Peter’s lines in Matthew 16:21-23. You might encourage the audience to follow along in their Bibles.

***“From that time on Jesus began to inform his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem. There he would have to suffer a lot because of the leaders, chief priests, and scribes. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be brought back to life. Peter took him aside and objected to this. He said...***

Hold the megaphone labeled Peter to the reader’s mouth as he/she reads the following (underlined):

**“Heaven forbid, Lord! This must never happen to you.”**

Remove megaphone and have him continue reading:

***But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get out of my way, Satan! You are tempting me to sin. You aren’t thinking the way God thinks but the way human’s think.”***

Continue with:

**Does this mean that Satan can use the thoughts and words of Jesus’ best friends to tempt him? Of course, it does. What was the temptation? Peter said, “this must never happen to you” and suggested that Jesus should never have to suffer and die for others. But Jesus knew his purpose for coming to this world.**

Crowds:

Have the next volunteer read his passage when prompted. Use the next megaphone labeled “Crowds.”

This reading is found in Matthew 27 starting at verse 39. This was when Jesus was hanging on the cross. He was in the process of giving his life as a sacrifice for the payment of all our sin. This is what happened.

***“Those who passed by insulted him. They shook their heads and said, ...***

Hold megaphone marked “crowds” to reader.

***“You were going to tear down God’s temple and build it again in three days. Save yourself! If you’re the Son of God, come down from the cross.”***

Remove megaphone.

Could Jesus come down from the cross? Of course. He had the power because he was the Son of God. But if he did, then he would have lived just for himself. His purpose was to come to our world and give up his life for us. Can anyone share what we learned in last week’s lesson about another time Satan tempted Jesus to prove he was the Son of God? (*Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness and suggested twice that Jesus prove he was the Son of God by doing miraculous feats.*)

Religious Leaders:

Now take the third megaphone or label that says, “religious leaders.”

Have the next volunteer read what the religious leaders said in Matthew 27:41-42.

***“The chief priests together with the scribes and the leaders made fun of him (Jesus) in the same way. They said, ...***

Hold the megaphone labeled “religious leaders” to the reader’s mouth.

***“He saved others, but he can’t save himself. So he’s Israel’s king! Let him come down from the cross now, and we’ll believe him.”***

Remove megaphone.

What was the temptation? Again, to come down from the cross. If Jesus came down from the cross, that would surely prove he was the Son of God, wouldn’t it? If you were Jesus, what would you do?

This is an interesting question. Let one or two answer.



**If Jesus saved himself, then we would not be saved from our sins. If one of us were Jesus, would we let ourselves be punished for the sins of other people?**

### Thieves:

Use the megaphone labeled “thieves” as the last volunteer helps with the reading of Luke 23:39.

***“One of the criminals hanging there insulted Jesus by saying, ...***

Hold the “thieves” megaphone to the student’s mouth and have them read:

***“So, you’re really the Messiah, are you? Well, save yourself and us!”***

Remove megaphone and have students return to seats.

**So what all did Jesus surrender? He surrendered his whole life – all of his power, his fame, his control. And what did he get? Let’s go to our Hands of Surrender and take a look.**

### **Teaching with the “Hands of Surrender”**

Give “Living for Self” sign to the Hands of Surrender (*only the person’s white gloved hands should be visible above the partition*).

**Jesus surrendered his “living for self.” What do you think he got in return?**

Hands of Surrender disappear with the “Living for Self” sign and return to hold up a cross.

**So, this is what Jesus got back – a cross – an opportunity to give his life for others. But there is something about this cross I want you to notice. This cross is empty. In other words, there is no image of Jesus on the cross. That’s because this cross also reminds us of life.**

**After Jesus gave his life on the cross, Jesus was raised to life and was given the highest place in all of heaven. He won the victory over the power of Satan, sin and death.**

**Now, the cross has become a symbol of life because anyone who trusts in Jesus will live with him now. Someday we will live face-to-face with him in heaven. So the cross is a symbol of life with God.**

### Surrendering our Lives:

Hold up the pictures of things that people live for from Warm-up activity.

**These things can be good, but if they are all that we live for, the most important things, then we are living just for ourselves. Should we listen to all the messages that suggest we live for ourselves? God wants us to surrender living for ourselves. He wants us to serve others as Jesus served. So, let's put these pictures in the Hands of Surrender.**

The Hands return with a collage of pictures on the cross. Say:

**This is an example of the art project that you do in small group application today.**

**What does it mean to have these pictures mounted to a cross? It means that when we give up living for ourselves, we get life with God. That doesn't mean that we still can't do the things we enjoy or have wonderful relationships while here on earth. But now all of these activities or things can become ways we serve God and others, instead of just living for ourselves.**

**When we choose to live with attitudes of serving God first and then others, our lives are much happier and richer. We are not just thinking about ourselves, but we are giving up ourselves and God becomes a part of each activity.**

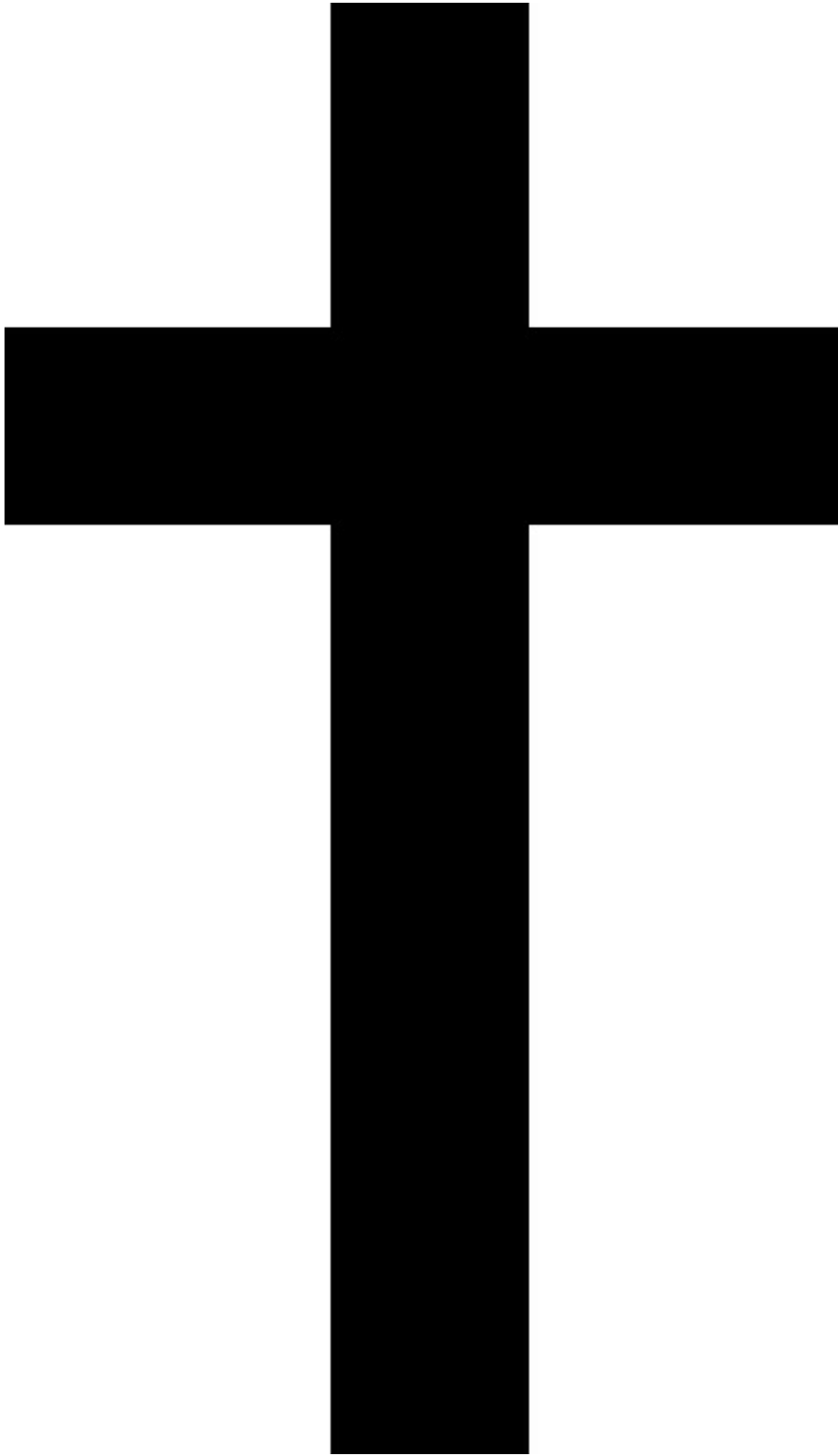
*Option, if time allows: Personal testimony*

Have someone in your church that has gone through an addiction or a severe trial or difficulty in life, share his/her testimony of how they learned to surrender to God. And, in so doing, found life with him and lived it to the full. Oftentimes, God will bless people in richer ways because they have surrendered living just for themselves.

Be sure to inform the guest to keep his testimony under two minutes.

*Closing prayer:*

**Heavenly Father, Thank you that you gave us Jesus who surrendered his life for us. Sometimes we want to live just for ourselves. Help us to remember how Jesus did not listen to the temptations to live for himself, but gave up his life so we can have life. Help us to be like him and surrender ourselves to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.**



**LIVING  
FOR  
SELF**