



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Series:** Surrender U  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 44

# Jesus is Tempted: Turn These Stones to Bread

**Take Home Point:** \*Give up self-centeredness—  
get kingdom mindedness. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

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

**Key Verse:** Matthew 4:4, "Scripture says, 'A person cannot live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks.'"

**We will help kids know:**

- Surrender means to give up or hand something over. God asks us to give up certain things in our lives so he might give us something better.
- Jesus was tempted by the devil to not surrender to God's will.
- Jesus surrendered to his Father's will. He did not choose to be self-centered; instead, he was kingdom-minded. That means first thinking about what God wants.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Challenged by the notion of surrendering self-centeredness.
- Excited to discover how God gives us something better when we surrender to him.
- Content even when we surrender and don't immediately receive something better.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify some of their actions and attitudes that are self-centered.

## THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	The topic of surrender is illustrated with giving and sharing of candy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• napkins</li> <li>• four chocolate chips per student</li> <li>• two Hershey's Kisses® per student</li> <li>• one mini candy bar for each student</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4   9   11   12	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Dramatic Presentation:</b> <i>Professor Givitup Talks About Kingdom Mindedness</i> and interviews three volunteers regarding what makes kids happy.  <b>Video:</b> <i>The Miracle Maker</i> by Word Entertainment, Inc. --- Jesus' temptations  <b>Hands of Surrender</b> demonstrate how we can be blessed when we surrender our will to God and a story is read about a man who gave it up and was blessed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• video-<i>Miracle Maker</i> by Word Entertainment (<a href="http://www.booksofthebible.com">www.booksofthebible.com</a>)</li> <li>• volunteer to do the "hands of surrender"</li> <li>• white gloves</li> <li>• curtained area</li> <li>• two signs (<i>p. 16-17</i>)</li> <li>• graduation mortar board cap</li> <li>• gown</li> <li>• brightly colored tie, scarf or boa</li> <li>• Bible book marked at 2 Corinthians 5:15</li> <li>• White board, flip chart or chalkboard with Professor Givitup's name and topic. Also have written Matthew 4:3 (<i>see lesson</i>).</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5	Kids think about and write down what they need to give up in order to take on kingdom mindedness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a candy bar for one student who didn't get one in the beginning</li> <li>• paper and pencil for each student</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.*

*Supplies: napkins, four chocolate chips per student, two Hershey's Kisses® per student, one mini candy bar for each student*

Say:

**Have you ever had a wrestling match or some contest where someone said, “I’m going to make you give up?” Maybe then the person would get you in a hold and keep you in the squeeze until you finally said, “Uncle,” or in other words, “I give up.” Now, when something like this happens, it usually means that person has said, “I surrender” and is the one who loses.**

**Today we are starting a new study on what it means for a Christian to surrender. Surprisingly enough, when a Christian says to God, “I surrender,” it means that the person will not be losing but winning.**

**You see, God never grabs our arms and forces us to give up, nor holds our heads under water until we give up. No, instead he gives us his own Son Jesus, who surrendered his life for us. When we realize how amazing his love is, that convinces us to surrender to him. The neat thing is, when we surrender to God, we get something better back from him.**

**Let’s have some snacks while we talk about it. I’m going to pass out four little chocolate chips to every person here. Now you can eat all four if you’d like. Or, if you would like, you could share one or two of them with me. You see, I’ve passed them all out and have none left for myself.**

Collect any chocolate chips from those students willing to give them. Then after everyone has made a decision as to whether they would surrender a chocolate chip, pass out a Hershey’s Kiss® for every chocolate chip received.

**For those of you who gave me a chocolate chip, here’s something back for you – a Hershey’s Kiss. Now go ahead and eat one if you’d like or eat them both if you’d like, unless you’d like to give me one of them. You see, I gave all mine away and don’t have any myself.**

Again, let them decide if they will surrender one. Collect from all of those who will release their Hershey’s Kiss. Then pass out a mini candy bar to all, EXCEPT FOR ONE OF THE STUDENTS WHO GAVE up their Hershey’s Kiss. This student gets nothing,

but then again, surrender is giving up, not just investing in exchange for a sure expectation of something bigger.

**You have decided to surrender a Hershey's Kiss. Thank you. I'm sure that your willingness to give something up, thinking of me instead of thinking of yourself, will bring you some type of blessing. As a matter of fact, I have a few mini-candy bars in my bag and to show you my appreciation, let me give these to those of you who surrendered. What! Oh no, there is one short. I'm afraid someone won't get one of these. But anyway, there was no promise that you would. Remember, when you surrender, you are giving something up with no guarantees to get more of the same.**

Don't tell the person who was left out, but after large group, during the Interpretation questions, you will give that person a regular-sized candy bar.

**This surrender business reminds me of a Bible verse: "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" (Acts 20:35 NIV) Let's talk about that. Tell about a time that you gave something up to someone else and somehow you received a blessing. It's an example of being more blessed to give than to receive. I'll start by giving an example from my life...**

Give an example here, then let kids share as time allows. Then introduce the take home point.

**Today we will learn to *\*give up self-centeredness and get kingdom mindedness.***

## **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 Kingdom Mindedness* and interviews three volunteers regarding what makes kids happy.

**Video:** *The Miracle Maker* by Word Entertainment, Inc. --- Jesus' temptations

**Hands of Surrender** demonstrate how we can be blessed when we surrender our will to God and a story is read about a man who gave it up and was blessed.

# 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 does the Declaration of Independence say are the fundamental rights of every human being?** *(Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.)*

**Professor Givitup is the head of the Department of Surrendology at Surrender U. “-Ology” means “study of.” So surrendology would be the study of what?** *(Surrendering.)*

**Prof. Givitup claims that if we surrender, we'll have a greater chance for happiness. Surrender what?** *(What I want.)*

**To whom?** *(God.)*

**What do we get when we surrender our will to God?** *(If they're not sure, remind them of the hands of surrender – what did they give back? We get what he wants for us.)*

Read 2 Corinthians 5:15.

**What did Jesus do for all people?** *(He died for all.)*

**What should we do in response?** *(Live not for ourselves, but for him.)*

## Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**Will we be happy when we do that, when we live for Jesus?** *(Kids will probably say yes.) Why? This is a challenging question. If they don't have a great answer for this, let it go and move on. Let's see if we can figure out if living for Jesus will make us happy.*

**Before we talk about that, do you think it was fair that I didn't give a big candy bar to \_\_\_\_\_ before, even though he/she gave me a Hershey's Kiss?** *(Kids will likely say it wasn't fair.)*

**Should I give him/her a candy bar now? Why or why not?** *(After kids have responded, give him/her the candy bar.)*

**Is life always fair? (No.) Why do you think God allows “unfair” things to happen sometimes?** *Responses will vary. Some good reasons:*

- *If we always got what we wanted from God, then we would be God and he wouldn't be. Ask if they think they're smart enough to be God.*
- *What if the thing we wanted might harm someone else? Or what if the thing I want is opposite what someone else wants? We can't both get what we want. So then whose “want” wins out?*

**There's one more reason why God allows unfair things to happen.**

Read Romans 5:3b-4...

***“We know that suffering creates endurance, endurance creates character, and character creates confidence.”***

**According to this verse, what good can come from suffering?** *(Suffering can make us stronger, more confident people.)*

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

**Can any of you identify a time when something good came in your life, or the life of someone you know, in spite – or even because of – suffering?** *(If kids don't have a story to share, be ready with your own.)*

**I'm going to read three statements to you. Vote on the statements with your thumb. Thumbs up, you agree. Thumbs down, you disagree.**

Lead a discussion of each statement after kids “vote.”

- **God's will for me is always best, even if it's not what I thought I wanted.** *(This is a little different from the suffering question above. Ask if any of them can give an example.)*
- **If I define happiness as *what I want*, then I would be unhappy a lot.** *(Both thumbs up and thumbs down votes can be legitimately defended here. Some kids get what they want a lot of the time; they might vote yes. Others might not get their way as often and would tend to be unhappy more.)*
- **If I define happiness as *what God wants for me*, then I can be happy no matter what my circumstances.** *(By this point kids will likely all*

*agree. Ask them why they agree. It will help cement in their minds today's take home point.)*

Application Activity:

Give kids a piece of blank paper and a pencil.

**In today's Bible event, Jesus gave up self-centeredness even when he was hungry and wanted food. He responded to Satan's temptation with our key verse for today in Matthew 4:4: "*Scripture says, 'A person cannot live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks.'*"**

**According to this verse, how did Jesus seek kingdom-mindedness?**  
*(He believed it was more important to feed on God's word for spiritual strength, than to seek physical strength.)*

**How can we apply this verse to our own lives today?** *(Seek to be filled with God's word above earthly things.)*

**Our theme for today's session has been: *\*Give up self-centeredness and get kingdom mindedness.* Is there something in your life you need to surrender to God so that you could be more kingdom minded? Is there anything in your life that might be hindering God's will for you? Probably each of us has something in our life like that. If you think of something, write it on the piece of paper, then fold the paper in half and wait.**

Give an example from your life, either past or present. Maybe when you were younger you hung out with a crowd that led you away from God. Or maybe when you give in to your habit of procrastinating, it keeps you from being all God created you to be. When you were in college, did drinking pull you away from God? If you can't think of an example from your life, ask them what Dick Eastman surrendered, and how he was blessed because of it.

After kids have reflected, and most (hopefully all) have written something, ask if any of them want to share what they wrote with the group.

Close this section by encouraging kids to keep their note; suggest they might even want to talk and pray about it with their parents.

Closing Prayer:

**Jesus, thank you. You surrendered your life so that we might have life. You used Scripture to fight off temptation. Lord, help us to do the same, to resist Satan's lies. Help us also to resist our own sinful desires to have what we want while ignoring God's will. Father, thank you for caring so much for us that you actually pay attention to the day-to-day decisions we face. Help us to make those decisions in**

keeping with your will. Holy Spirit, help us to say “yes” to you and “no” to Satan and our own desires. Finally, Holy Spirit, please help our desires to be more and more in line with the Father’s will for us. ***HELP US GIVE UP SELF-CENTEREDNESS AND TAKE ON KINGDOM MINDEDNESS.*** In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**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

**Motto: Give it up for greatness!**

**Theme Verse: 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."*

## INTRODUCTION to SURRENDER UNIVERSITY

*The large group presentation will be a take-off from a college class conducted by Wilhelm Ulysses Givitup (Will U. Givitup, as he is commonly known). A lady professor would be Wilhelmina Ursula Givitip (or Willa U. Givitup). Prof. Givitup teaches surrendology, the study of surrendering. It all happens at Surrender U. where the motto is "Give it up for greatness."*

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*The first part of the lesson is an introduction to the Bible reading with a video section depicting Jesus' triumph over temptation and his willingness to surrender to the Father's will. For the three lessons dealing with one of the aspects of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, the entire temptation sequence is viewed, using a different video rendition each time.*

- Week 44: *"The Miracle Maker,"* Word Entertainment, Inc.
- Week 45: Nest Family Entertainment's *"The Animated Bible: "The Baptism of Jesus."*
- Week 46: *"The Visual Bible: Matthew. Volume 1"* Thomas Nelson, 1997

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*The second part of the lesson is a visual illustration using "The Hands of Surrender."*

Setting: a partition or some type of curtain with a person hiding behind it wearing white gloves. The gloved hands will be the only part of the person visible. These hands are called The Hands of Surrender.

Each week Professor Givitup will place in these hands an object representing something that we need to surrender. That object is carried behind the curtain by the hands, but the Hands of Surrender return with another object representing something better that God gives.

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# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## PROFESSOR GIVITUP TALKS ABOUT KINGDOM MINDEDNESS

Dramatic Presentation

*Supplies:*

- *mortar board or 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*
- *curtain or partitioned area*
- *signs: (2) See appendix*
- *white board, flip chart or chalkboard with Professor Givitup's name and topic. Also have written Matthew 4:3*

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

**Good morning, students. Welcome to Surrender University, where you will learn the secret to true joy in living. My name is Wilhelm Ulysses Givitup. Since that's a little long, I usually tell people the short version of my name: Will U Givitup. I am head of the Department of Surrendology at Surrender U. It's a department you won't find at any other institution of higher learning, which is why so many of our students come to Surrender U. They want to learn the secret to true joy in living.**

**How about you? Do YOU want to learn the secret to truly joyful living? Would you like to be happy the rest of your life? Of course you would. It's the American dream. I bet every one of you has heard the words I'm about to read to you. Let's see if you can tell me where they were originally recorded.**

***We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights (that means you can't take these rights away from them) – that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.***

**Who can tell me where those words first appeared? (*Declaration of Independence*.) The pursuit of happiness is part of the American dream! In fact, for many people, the pursuit of happiness seems to be their main reason for living.**

Invite three volunteers to come forward and then say:

**If I were to interview 100 kids in your school this next week, what do you think would be some of the answers I would hear most often to this question: *What would make you truly happy? There are no limits here – anything you want. What would make you truly happy?***

**What do you think kids would say?**

Let each of the three respond.

Assuming the responses have to do with wealth, possessions, power or fame (kids' version: cars, video game system, money, pets or world cruise), continue with:

**Here at Surrender U, we have a different perspective and it comes not from the Declaration of Independence, but from a document that is much older. What do you think is the source of our philosophy for happy living?**

Let one or more of the volunteers guess. Hopefully one will say the Bible.

**Good answer! Are you a professor here at Surrender U?**

Produce a Bible, pre-marked to 2 Corinthians 5:15, and have one of the volunteers read:

***“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.”***

**Who is this verse talking about? Let one of the volunteers answer. According to this verse, Jesus lived – and died – not for himself, but for us. And then he tells us to do the same – to live, and maybe even die, for others. This is the source of true happiness – living for God and living for others in Jesus' name! That is the lesson we teach in our studies here at Surrender U.**

Thank the three volunteers and invite them to return to their seats.

**Jesus is our example when it comes to finding true happiness or truly joyful living. Let's watch a video that may be familiar to some of you. As you watch the video, look for the answer to this question: What is it that seems to be Jesus' greatest need?**

**The Temptation of Jesus:**

Show the entire temptation of Jesus portion of the video, *The Miracle Maker*. Cue to start around 9 minutes, 38 seconds and end around 12 minutes, 17 seconds.

When the video concludes, continue:

**Jesus did not eat for 40 days. What do you think appeared to be his greatest need? Satan even used this need to tempt Jesus. (*The need for food – bread.*)**

**It looked like what Jesus needed more than anything else was food. Surely, after going without food for 40 days, food would be *THE* thing that would make Jesus happy. But Satan actually used Jesus' hunger to tempt him in another direction. Listen to what Satan says in Matt. 4:3.**

Have this written on the white board in advance and underline the words you emphasize as you read it.

***"IF you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."***

**Did you hear that? IF you are the Son of God. Satan basically said to Jesus, "Prove you are God's only Son. Perform a magic trick. And while you're at it, you might as well take care of that hunger problem you've got going on there."**

**Satan tried to get Jesus to focus on himself. Instead, Jesus focused on God. He even quoted Scripture as he responded to Satan's temptation. Listen again to Jesus' words as recorded in Matthew 4:4:**

***"Scripture says, 'A person cannot live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks.'"***

**So the first thing we want our students to learn at Surrender U is these three words: "It is written." We want students to *\*give up self-centeredness and get kingdom-mindedness*. And the best way for this to happen is to know God's word. Then, once you know God's word, you pray for God to help you apply it to your situation.**

**Let me show you what I mean. I need another volunteer.**

**The Hands of Surrender:**

**Choose a volunteer.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ (*Student's name*), allow me to introduce to you to... (*with dramatic emphasis – if using a microphone, have it echo if possible*) the Hands of Surrender!**

Hands emerge from behind the curtain.

Pick up the “Whatever I want” sign and show it to everyone.

**This sign represents the thoughts in your mind and the desires of your heart. Ask the volunteer: What does it say? (Answer: Whatever I want.)**

**Many people live as though this is what will make them happy. It’s as though they see themselves and their happiness as the center of the universe. But remember what we said will give you true happiness? Our volunteer is going to demonstrate for us.**

Coach the volunteer to hand the “Whatever I Want” sign to the hands at the curtain. The person behind the curtain takes the sign out of sight and waits.

**So what do you think? Is that it? Is that the way to true happiness? Say these questions mysteriously. It’s actually the first step. There is a very important second step. What is the second step?**

At this point the person behind the curtain hands back a different sign that reads, “Whatever God Wants.” Take the sign and conceal the message on it so no one can see. Ask the volunteer:

**What do you think the sign says?**

After the volunteer says what they think is written on the sign, show the message for everyone to see. Have the volunteer read the message aloud.

**How do you suppose we can know what God wants? (By studying the Bible, where God’s wisdom and will are revealed.) If we want to be truly happy, we need to... (Write the take home point on the white board.)**  
**\*give up our self-centeredness and get kingdom-mindedness. When we give our self-centeredness up to God, he will give us back blessings we never imagined possible. One cannot out give God. If you give to God, he always gives back, more and better.**

Thank the volunteer for helping and invite him/her to return to his/her seat.

A living example:

To audience:

**Do you believe that? Do you believe if you give up what you want and tell God, “I’ll do whatever you want, God,” you’ll be truly happy? Let me tell you a true story to illustrate how knowing God’s word and praying for God’s wisdom will help you make decisions that are best for you.**

*It might be good to have someone else prepare in advance and read this story, since Prof. Givitup has been talking for quite a while. Or change the lighting – something to break the pattern and keep kids engaged.*

**Dick Eastman began playing the trumpet when he was 13. He loved it. He played at every opportunity and began to dream big. He wanted to be a professional trumpet player in a band when he grew up. He practiced and practiced. Soon he became the best trumpet player in the school band. When a rock-band leader was looking for a trumpet player, he asked Dick's band director. "Who is the hottest trumpet player you've seen? We need one for our band." Who do you think the band director named? That's right – they named Dick.**

**At the time Dick was asked if he wanted a job as a trumpet player in a rock band, he was also working in a grocery store. The answer seemed obvious. More money. A lot more money. Then there was the travel. Maybe even fame.**

**Dick was tempted. So he prayed about it. He told God how much he wanted to be in a band and how he really wanted to be in this rock band, but he also said this: "I surrender this to you. You show me what you want me to do and no matter what, I'll do that. Give me peace that this is your will, not my will, if I take this job in the rock band." He said, "Lord, I want only your will for my life." What do you think happened?**

**Poll the group. Ask those who think he took the band job to raise their hands. Then have those who think he didn't take the job raise their hands.**

**Dick sensed that it wasn't God's will for him to be in that band. Later, Dick found out why. He discovered that God wanted him to go to a Bible college. And as a part of his entering Bible college, he received a scholarship to lead a trumpet trio that traveled across America! Now, not only did Dick play his trumpet, but he learned from God how to be a leader. Today, he leads a ministry and tells people about Jesus in more than 100 countries. He and his wife have traveled so many miles that they could have gone around the world over 40 times!**

**This is what he tells people when asked if it was difficult to decide not to join the rock band: "Playing in a rock band would be nothing compared to the joy I have today serving God like this! I'm so glad I surrendered myself to God in prayer so many years ago."**

**So while Dick attended Bible College, somewhere along the line, he graduated from here – from good old Surrender U. How about you? Now that you are here at Surrender U., will you stick with it until**

**graduation? Will you learn what a blessing it is to give it up for God, and let God choose what's best for you?**

**Let's pray:**

**Dear Father in heaven – thank you that you know what is best for us. Thank you that we don't have to depend on our own wisdom to figure out life's questions. Lord, we want to surrender our self-centeredness and take into our spirits your kingdom mindedness. Help us to do that today and every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Before dismissing kids from large group, have them say the take home point:

***\*Give up self-centeredness---get kingdom mindedness.***

**WHATEVER**

**I WANT...**



**WHATEVER**

**GOD WANTS.**