



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Character Shapers  
Spring Year 2, Lesson 54

# Testing During Temptation

**Take Home Point:** \*Pass the test of temptation—do what God wants. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Genesis 39

**Key Verse:** 1 Corinthians 10:13, "There isn't any temptation that you have experienced which is unusual for humans. God, who faithfully keeps his promises, will not allow you to be tempted beyond your power to resist. But when you are tempted, he will also give you the ability to endure the temptation as your way of escape."

**We will help kids know:**

- The Bible event of Joseph's resistance to temptation with Potiphar's wife.
- We face temptations throughout our life and it is important to recognize them as times of testing.
- In facing temptation, the best thing to do is to immediately run away.
- The Bible shows us what God wants us to do when we face temptation.
- Even when we fail the test of temptation, Jesus gives us the power of his forgiveness and a second chance.




**We will help kids feel:**

- The test of temptation when wanting to sneak an M&M's candy.
- A new resolve to pass the test of temptations they face daily.

**We will help kids do:**

- Discuss real life temptations and how to pass those tests.
- Create a grade card for their group of common temptations.
- Pray for personal temptations they can expect to be tested with.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Kids talk about different kinds of tests they face while facing temptation to sneak M&M's from a bowl in front of them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bowl</li> <li>• M&amp;M's</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  8  11	<b>Overview</b>  Boys and girls have a contest to see who can stuff a team member as full as possible with newspaper wads representing \$100 bills.  <b>Video:</b> The kids watch a video of Joseph when he was faced with temptation from Potiphar's wife.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• costuming for Pablo Pistachio</li> <li>• two extra large sweatshirts</li> <li>• two extra large sweat pants</li> <li>• masking tape</li> <li>• video <i>Joseph in Egypt</i> from the Animated Stories from the Bible Series II, 1992—distributed by <a href="http://www.nestfamily.com">www.nestfamily.com</a></li> <li>• two large stacks of newspaper</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4	Students fill out a grade card giving themselves a grade for specific character traits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• copy of the Grade Card for Character Tests (see appendix)</li> <li>• pencil</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.

*Supplies:* A bowl of M&M's

Place the bowl of M&M's in the center of the group. *This is done to test the small act of obedience and refraining from eating an M&M when the shepherd leaves the room for a moment.*

**I have a treat for all of us—a bowl of M&M's. We will have these a little later during our lesson. So, for now, please do not have any until I tell you it is okay.**

**Today we will talk about tests we face. What is one of the hardest tests you have ever taken in school?**

As the kids are discussing their answers, make an excuse to leave the room for a moment. When you come back, ask the following:

**Sometimes tests can be in the form of contests like sporting games. What are some tests you have gone through this past month in sports, music, academics, or any other type of competition?**

Again, as the kids are discussing, dismiss yourself from the group for a few moments. *This will give the kids another opportunity to sneak some M&M's.*

**Can you think of anything that may test your obedience?** *(Perhaps the kids will mention that it was a test to stay out of the M&M's while you were out of the room.)*

At this point, pass out the M&M's for the kids to eat.

**This was one test of obedience. It may have been a little test, but these little tests prepare us for the big tests down the road.**

**What are some other tests or temptations? What about some honesty tests?**

**Do we pass these tests? How can we grade ourselves? How well did we do? Did we get an "A" or "C" or did we fail?**

**Today we will discover that God gives us temptations to help develop our character. In order for our character to be shaped, we need to *\*pass the test of temptation—do what God wants.***

# 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.*

Boys and girls have a contest to see who can stuff a team member as full as possible with newspaper wads representing \$100 bills.

**Video:** *Joseph in Egypt* from the Animated Stories from the Bible Series II, 1992. The kids watch a video of Joseph when he was faced with temptation from Potiphar's wife.

# 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 Genesis 39 in their Bibles.

**According to Genesis 39:4, what kind of servant was Joseph to Potiphar?** *(A trusted servant.)*

**How much did Potiphar trust Joseph?** *(Genesis 39:4-6. He put Joseph in charge of his household and everything he owned.)*

**What did God do for Potiphar because of Joseph?** *(Genesis 39:5-6. God blessed all Potiphar owned in his house and in his fields.)*

**What was the number one reason Joseph refused Potiphar's wife according to Genesis 39:9?** *(He did not want to do such a wicked thing and sin against God.)*

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

**How did Joseph physically flee from temptation?** (*Genesis 39:12. When Potiphar's wife came to him and grabbed his clothes, he ran outside and left his clothes in her hand.*)

**How did it *appear* that Joseph failed the test?** (*Genesis 39:19-20. Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph to her husband and Potiphar had Joseph thrown into prison.*)

**How did this prove to be a part of God's plan and shape Joseph's character for the future according to Genesis 39:20-23?** (*God was with him in prison and gave Joseph protection. The Lord put Joseph on good terms with the warden who placed Joseph in charge of all the prisoners and everything they did. The Lord made whatever Joseph did successful. This was a training for Joseph's future leading.*)

**Why do you think God made everything Joseph did successful?** (*Because Joseph remained faithful to God.*)

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

**What two things did Joseph do when faced with temptation that we should also do?** (*He did not sin against God and he fled from the situation.*)

*You may have kids look up the key verse in their Bibles to underline so they can actually look at it and meditate on it.*

**The key verse from 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, “There isn’t any temptation that you have experienced which is unusual for humans. God, who faithfully keeps his promises, will not allow you to be tempted beyond your power to resist. But when you are tempted, he will also give you the ability to endure the temptation as your way of escape.”**

**How does this passage give you hope when you face temptation and encouragement not to sin?**

**Like Joseph, how can temptation tests strengthen our character?**

Application activity:

*Supplies: copy of the grade card and pencil for each student*

Pass the grade cards to each kid and say:

**I would like each of you to give an example of a little test or a big test in one of these areas. Let's start with honesty. Who can give an example for a little test of honesty?**

Have a child share and then write the example in the space provided on the report card. The other students can write in their own example.

**Now, how about an example of a big honesty test?**

Again, have students record an example of their own. Continue this with the other categories on the report card, having kids share all kinds of examples and recording them on the report card.

**Which one of these tests do you think you may encounter this next month?**

**What grade would you like to receive on this test? Let's look at the bottom of our report card. It says "Final Grade." The final grade is more than just an "A" or a "B". This final grade comes from God in our testing process. He gives us the grade of the cross.**

Have kids fill the final box with a cross.

**If we fail tests, we can always come to him and receive the forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the cross. Through Jesus, we are given the power to begin again.**

**When we do well in our tests, it is because Jesus Christ is living in our lives and giving us the strength through the Holy Spirit. The cross needs to be our final grade. The cross is the key to passing the temptation test.**

**Remember to *\*pass the test of temptation—do what God wants.***

## Prayer Time:

Thank God for his word that teaches us right from wrong. Thank him for the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts when we accept Jesus and who guides us in our decisions and gives us strength. Thank God for Jesus who is our example and who died for us because we have failed. Thank him for Jesus' resurrection power to overcome temptation. Pray for help to remember to turn to God and recognize he is our source for success and forgives our failures. Thank him for shaping our character by giving us temptation tests.

Encourage kids to pray for forgiveness in areas they have failed and/or for strength to stand up in specific areas of weakness.

**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

## Character Shapers: Testing

*We face challenges in life that God can use to shape our character if we let him. These are called character shapers. These challenges might seem negative, such as encountering troubles or facing personal failures. Or they may be positive, such as encountering opportunities to show service or faithfulness. All of these can be character shapers if we allow God to shape us through them.*

*Pablo Pistachio will present this series. This artistic character might be costumed with an artist's smock, palette and beret. A prop used from week to week is the figure of a sculpted head on a table. This will be a significant visual prop as different features are applied in conjunction with weekly discussions about how God shapes our character. The features added will create abstract art, but will give clear visual illustration to the concept of the day.*

*Create a head for this series that will act as the focal point for "shaping one's character." Form a paper maché head with a filled balloon, strips of paper and paste. Create eyes, nose, ears, eyebrows, and lips from magazine cutouts or with markers. This needs to be prepared ahead of time and dried. Other options that could be used are a Styrofoam head and straight stickpins, or a mannequin head.*

### *Supplies:*

- *two large stacks of newspapers*
- *two extra large sweatshirts, two extra large sweatpants*
- *masking tape*
- *Joseph of Egypt video from the Animated Stories from the Bible series. It can be ordered from [www.nestfamily.com](http://www.nestfamily.com) (cued to 11:50 –Joseph resists Potiphar's wife)*
- *five pieces of paper cut from newspaper in the dimensions of a dollar bill. Write one of these words on each of them with a bold marker: greed, self-centeredness, disrespect, and boasting*

### Introduction:

**Hello, everyone. Welcome once again to my art studio. My name is Pablo Pistachio. It has been so good visiting with you these past few weeks.**

**Who can tell me the name of my most famous masterpiece that I have created? (Alfred.) Correct! Alfred has helped me illustrate how God shapes our character.**



**He has become very handsome as his character has developed. This very thing happens to you as God continues to shape you. Your outside might not change much, but what an incredible piece of art God is shaping on the inside of each one of you.**

### Introduction to the Game: Money Stuffers

In advance, divide the room down the middle with a piece of masking tape. Have boys sit on one side of the tape and girls on the other. Place the newspaper stacks in the center of the line.

**We need a representative for the boys' team and one for the girls' team to please come forward.**

Choose one boy and one girl. The girl chosen should be wearing pants or shorts. Have these volunteers put on the sweatshirt and sweatpants.

**This boy and this girl are the “stuffee” for your team. I now need three more girls and three more boys to be the “stuffers.”**

Choose the volunteers for each team.

**I need each “stuffee” and their “stuffers” to stand six feet from the pile of newspaper.**

**These newspapers represent \$100 bills. Each sheet is equal to \$100. For two minutes your team will see how many \$100 bills can you wad up, throw to the “stuffers” and have the “stuffers” stuff into the “stuffee.” There can be no \$100 bills showing. Every bill must be stuffed into the shirt or pants. After two minutes we will see who is stuffed with the most money. Ready, set, GO!**

Let the rest of the boys and girls wad the newspaper from their stack and toss to their stuffers. After two minutes continue with the following.



## Game Application Point

**Let's look closely. Do we see any money sticking out of the clothes? If there is any, we must remove it. Now let's take an assessment and see who is the most stuffed.**

Guess which kid has the most stuffing by appearance.

**Great, our winner is... *Either the girls' or the boys' team.***

**Would you agree that this looks a little ridiculous? Let's imagine that you thought you could steal money and no one would know. What would happen if you had the opportunity to steal several thousand dollars and no one would notice?**

**Is it true that no one would notice? No. God would notice. It is just like our helpers here. It is obvious to God. What is damaged is your character. Just look at how out of shape you become.**

**I have a true story to read to you that is a little shocking.**

## The Story of the Unbelievable, Unforgettable Day

**Melvin Kiser, phone technician for Ohio Bell, was driving down Interstate 71 in Columbus, Ohio, minding his own business, when he noticed a bag tumble out the back door of a truck traveling in front of him. Before he could react, he had driven over the bag. As he looked out his rearview mirror, he saw hundreds of pieces of paper swirling in the air above the highway.**

**Looking ahead again, he realized that the vehicle in front of him was an armored truck used to transport money – lots of money. As a second bag tumbled from the truck and hit the pavement in front of Melvin's car, hundreds of bills exploded into the air.**

**While the truck disappeared around the bend, Melvin pulled over and got out of his car. "Get you some while you can!" shouted one of the estimated 200 people that converged on the scene, "It's ours!"**

**Melvin scooped up an armful of cash, then thought to himself, "I've gotta get out of here!" He called his girlfriend first, telling her that he had found \$70,000 on the freeway. Understandably, she didn't believe him. When he called his boss to inform him of his find, Melvin announced his intention to turn the money in.**

On the way to the police station, Melvin saw his brother, Tom, who was absolutely dumbfounded when Melvin told him what he intended to do. He was even more frustrated when Melvin refused to give him \$100. Tom didn't even get to see the money!

When it was all over, the mayor of Columbus awarded Melvin Kiser a proclamation, and the Metropolitan Armored Car Company rewarded him with a check of \$5,700, which was ten percent of the actual \$57,000, he had found. The company promised similar rewards for others returning the cash. But no one followed Melvin's lead. Some sources reported that more than a million dollars was lost that day.

A local radio station asked listeners to call in to say whether they would have returned the cash. Out of 100 callers, over 90% said they would have kept the money.

### Application of the Story

**If you had been on that road, would you have returned that money? This was a test, a test of temptation. When you are tempted, will you do right or will you do wrong?**

Refer to the dollar bill-sized pieces of newspaper with temptations printed on them. Attach these pieces of paper with tape to the base of Alfred as you read each one.

**These are some of the common temptations we might face: greed, gossip, self-centeredness, disrespect and boasting.**

**1 Corinthians 10:13 says *"There isn't any temptation that you have experienced which is unusual for humans. God, who faithfully keeps his promises, will not allow you to be tempted beyond your power to resist. But when you are tempted, he will also give you the ability to endure the temptation as your way of escape."***

**Let's watch a story of someone who also faced temptation and see how he handled the test. Then we will talk more about who will give us the ability to endure the temptation and will help us escape the trap of the testing.**

### Watch the Video – Joseph of Egypt

Watch the video *Joseph from Egypt: Animated Stories from the Bible*. Show clip from 11:50 to 14:00. This is when Joseph flees the temptation of Potiphar's wife and is put into prison. [www.nestfamily.com](http://www.nestfamily.com)

**There are two things that Joseph did when faced with a test of temptation. First he fled, and secondly, he did what God wanted.**

**How do we know what God wants? The first thing is to recognize the temptation as a test. To really understand what to do in these situations, we need to know what God says about it in the Bible. God's word says you shouldn't steal. In Joseph's case, God says do not commit adultery or steal someone else's wife.**

**When faced with the test of temptation, you need to flee. Joseph didn't stand around to debate the issue. He ran away.**

**What happened to Joseph in this situation? Did the obedience seem to pay off for him? It seemed at first it didn't. He had to go to jail.**

**I am sure that Joseph felt abandoned by God. But, God was there in the midst of it all with a plan. God used this situation that seemed very bad to bless Joseph. He was making a way for Joseph to be brought to power as the second greatest ruler in all the land. Joseph passed the test!**

**Today in small groups, you will discuss what kind of tests you take. All of life is filled with tests you face from temptation. The trick is to know when you are tempted and in the middle of one of those tests. Then you will be able to pass the test through Jesus' strength.**

**When we fail a test, understand that God always invites us to come to him and receive the forgiveness he has for us by giving his Son, Jesus. He will give us the power to go back and face those tests. Know that it is only through his power that we are able to pass the tests.**

**Closing prayer:**

**Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for understanding us and including tests of temptation to strengthen our character. But most of all, we thank you for your Son, Jesus, who gives us forgiveness of sin through his death on the cross and the power to face daily tests of temptation. We realize that we will *\*pass the test of temptation when we do what God wants*. In Jesus' name. Amen.**



## Examples of Testing

Type of Test	Little test	Big Test	How did you do?
HONESTY			
FAITHFUL FRIEND			
KINDNESS			
GOD'S REPRESENTATIVE			
FINAL GRADE _____→			

# GRADE CARD for CHARACTER TESTS

