

JESUS WAS TEMPTED | Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4

Bible Story: Jesus was tempted and never sinned.

Memory Verse: ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. **John 1:1-2**

Big Picture Question: Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

Bottom Line: *We fight temptation and trust Jesus because He is God.*

Christ Connection: *Jesus never sinned, but He obeyed God and was baptized like sinners are baptized. Baptism reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. It reminds us that when we believe in Jesus, we start a new life—a life lived for Jesus.*

Leader Notes:

CONTEXT

Satan wants to ruin God's plan. In Genesis 3, he tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God. Sin entered the world, and the perfect relationship between God and man was broken. But all along, God had a plan to rescue His people through His Son. So when Jesus came to earth, Satan didn't back down. After Jesus was baptized—beginning His ministry and effectively declaring war on Satan—Satan tempted Jesus.

If Satan could just get Jesus to stray from God's perfect plan—if he could just get Jesus to sin—then Jesus would be disqualified to be the sinless Savior people needed. But Satan could not stop God's plan.

Jesus' temptation is not primarily an example to be followed but more a declaration of who Jesus is. He is the answer to God's promise of a descendant who would crush the head of the snake. (Gen. 3:15) Jesus is the perfect sacrifice required to take away sin. Where Adam failed, Jesus succeeded. Adam brought guilt and death to the human race, but Jesus brings forgiveness and life to all who trust in Him.

Even today, the devil works hard "to steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10). Teach kids that the power to resist temptation comes from Jesus. Kids may struggle to understand that following Jesus won't mean instant eradication of sin and temptation in our lives. (Sanctification is a lifelong process!) Pray that the kids you teach would see Jesus as their greatest treasure—more valuable than any instant gratification the world has to offer.

Finally, give kids hope for when they fail. Jesus' perfect obedience is credited to those who trust in Him. Remind the kids that "if we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). We can boldly approach God's throne to receive both grace and mercy when we need it. (See Heb. 4:14-16.)

TEACHING FOCUS (Jesus' Temptation)

As we teach kids about Jesus, encourage them to see that Jesus is perfect. He never sinned, but He can relate to us and to the temptations that we face. He was tempted by the devil three times just as we are tempted. When we are tempted to do wrong, we can fight temptation by trusting Him because He is God and He lives in us.

Christ Connection: *Jesus was tempted, but He trusted God and never sinned. Jesus is perfect and righteous. A perfect sacrifice was required to take away sin. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. He died on the cross to free us from sin and to give us the power to say no to temptation.*

Bottom Line: *We fight temptation and trust Jesus because He is God.*

Today's Takeaways:

- After being baptized, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.
- While there, Jesus did not eat for 40 days, and He spent time praying.
- Satan came and tried to get Jesus to sin.
- Jesus was tempted and never sinned.
- We are tempted to sin.
- Because we have a relationship with Jesus, we are not powerless to sin.
- We have His power inside of us.
- **Bottom Line:** We fight temptation and trust Jesus because He is God.

PRAYER AND TIME OF COMMITMENT

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

Worship and Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible Story today."

What You Do: Introduce the Story

"After Jesus was baptized, Jesus went into the wilderness. Jesus did not eat for many days. Jesus was very hungry. The devil, said, 'If You are God's Son, turn these stones into bread.' Jesus said, 'Man need's God's words more than bread!'" Then the devil took Jesus to the top of the temple and said, "If You are God's Son, jump down. God's Words says He will not let You get hurt." Jesus said, "God's Word says 'Do not test God!'" The devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him the earth. The devil said, "I will give You all of this if You worship me." Jesus said, "God away! God's Word says only worship God!" The devil went away, and God sent angels to take care of Jesus."

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

1. Wash rocks

What You Need: smooth stones, small bin of water, toothbrushes and washcloths

What You Do:

- Provide smooth, hand sized stones (1 per kid), a small bin of water, clean toothbrushes, and washcloths for toddlers to clean rocks.
- Retell the Bible story.

What You Say " Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. Jesus was very hungry, and the devil wanted Jesus to turn rocks into bread. Jesus obeyed God's plan. Jesus always did what was right. **Was Jesus God or a human? Jesus was fully God and fully human.**"

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids.
- As you say the words point to them on the poster.
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include, "**In the beginning** (draw world in air) **was the Word** (open book), **and the Word** (sign Jesus) **was with God, and the Word** (sign Jesus) **was God. He** (sign Jesus) **was with God**(sign God) **in the beginning**(draw world in air). **John 1:1-2**

What You Say "When the verse says Word, it means Jesus. The Word, Jesus was God. They are the same! People knew Jesus was not an ordinary baby. They knew He was the Savior who had come to save people from sin. Help me with the Big Picture Question: **Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human. We worship Him because He is God.**

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray: "Jesus thank You for your love and sacrifice for us. Thank You for showing us how to follow God. Help us to see you every day and to follow You. In Jesus Name, Amen."
- Tell parents one thing you did today and encourage them to check out the Family Resources online, app and in paper copy on the slat wall.