



REALLY TEMPTING

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U4# 2 1st-3rd Grade • Oct.1, 2023

Concept

Jesus, our model, was tempted as we are, but did not sin.

Goal

Students will learn the significance and nature of Jesus' temptations. They will be challenged to know and apply God's Word and to depend on God so they can resist the lies of the evil one.

Passage

Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15

Key Verse: "Since Jesus has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are being tempted." Hebrews 2:18 (NLT)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oyster crackers, 1 box/class <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Pitcher for water</i>• Cups, 1/student• <i>Large drinking glass</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Through the Eyes of Jesus, John Mack</i> <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Baking soda labeled "TEMPTATION," 1 box/room</i>• <i>Four 16 oz. clear containers</i>• <i>4 salad plates & 1 tray</i>• <i>White vinegar, 1 bottle/room</i>• <i>Green food coloring , 1 small bottle/room</i>• <i>2 teaspoons</i> <p>Extension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>3 balloons</i>	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus Tempted Word Tiles, 1/student• Scissors• Markers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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The story of Jesus' temptation in the desert is told in Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13. More than any other story, it clearly defines the humanity of Christ. He was hungry. He was thirsty. And at a time of great physical need, He was tempted to turn away from dependence on God to fulfill His needs Himself.

Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit and fasted for forty days and forty nights, a reminder of the history of Israel, God's chosen people. Moses fasted "forty days" (Ex.34:28); Israel spent forty years in the wilderness, God's purpose being to "humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not" (Deut. 8:2); Elijah traveled toward the "mountain of God" for "forty days" (1 Kings 19:8). Jesus saw the resemblance in His ministry, especially as reflected in His subsequent quotes from Deuteronomy to counter the tempter's attacks, and this time the results were positive. At the very beginning of His ministry, "Jesus is subjected to a similar test and shows himself to be the true Israelite who lives 'on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord' (Deut. 8:3). And whereas Adam failed the great test and plunged the whole race into sin (Genesis 3), Jesus was faithful and thus demonstrated his qualification to become the Savior of all who receive him. It was, moreover, important that Jesus be tested/tempted as Israel and we are, so that he could become our 'merciful and faithful high priest' (Heb.2:17) and thus be 'able to help those who are being tempted' (Heb. 2:15; see Heb. 4:15-16). Finally, as the one who remained faithful in temptation he became the model for all believers when they are tempted." [1]

Jesus was subject to all the hungers, drives and needs which we experience and which seek to pull us into sin, but Jesus met every one of Satan's temptations with God's Word. Rejecting the privilege that was His by virtue of His deity, Jesus cast His lot fully with man. Because of this tremendous act of self-emptying, every human being can find hope. Jesus overcame temptation--as a human being! Because Jesus met temptation as a man, you and I can find victory too, by meeting our temptations as He met His! He committed Himself to the total will of God. Recognizing there could be no shortcuts, He chose God's way of complete submission which, ultimately, meant rejection, pain, and His death on the cross. "Before Jesus could rule, He had to learn by experience the fullest meaning of submission to the Father's will. The crown lay beyond the Cross." [2]

[1] NIV Study Bible, notes on Matt. 4:1, p. 1446.

[2] Richards, Lawrence O., The Teacher's Commentary, Victor Books, Wheaton, Illinois, 1987, p. 535.

Set Up

The week before the lesson: practice the object lesson.

The day of the lesson:

- For the Introduction – Fill the pitcher with water, pour cups for each student and set on the tray. Fill the large drinking glass with water.
- For Lesson and Learning Activity #1, fill three of the glasses about two-thirds full of water; fill the other glass two-thirds full of one part of water and two parts of vinegar. Put two or three drops of green food coloring in one spoon. Place this spoon out of sight until you are ready to use it. Place all four glasses of liquid on the plates. Put plates, soda box and the clean spoon on the tray. Make sure the glass containing the vinegar is in the center.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Activity – Word Tiles**
 - **Instructions:** Cut the tiles along the dotted lines, shuffle the tiles, and have the student reassemble them to make the phrase.
- **Demonstration – Temptation**
 - **Goal:** To experience need (thirst) and temptation (to take a drink).
 - **Instructions:** Set out the oyster crackers to snack on as children enter. Don't allow them to get a drink of water.

Introduction Lg. Group

Are you pretty thirsty from eating those crackers? (Take a big drink of water and exaggerate the refreshment of it!) The thirstier you are, the more you would be tempted to grab the glass. Today we are going to talk about a time when Jesus hadn't had anything to eat or drink for forty days. The devil was with Him and tempted Him to sin. (Pass out cups of water to those who want it.)

When have you wanted to do something wrong so much and couldn't stop yourself? (Allow for responses.) Why do we want to do things we know are wrong? We are all born with the desire to do things our own way - "temptation." Temptation is not wrong, but when we give in to temptation it is wrong. (Give an example of being tempted.) Today we will learn how Jesus responded to temptation.

Transition

We're going to read about the time Jesus was tempted by Satan.

Lesson Lg. Group

Instructions: Set the tray of glasses and baking soda in front where you can do the demonstration. Mark page 16 in *Through the Eyes of Jesus*.

First, I will read an interpretation of Matthew 4:1-4 out of this book. It is written as if Jesus were talking. (Read pages 16 & 17 of *Through the Eyes of Jesus*, "Not by Bread.")

Lesson Continued

Satan tempted Jesus to meet His own needs rather than depend on God. We are going to call this baking soda “TEMPTATION” and this glass of water represents Jesus. [Hold up the soda box. Dip the clean spoon into the soda box, bring out a spoonful of soda and dump it in glass #1 of water; do not stir.] Jesus decided to resist the temptation and let His Father meet His needs. He answered Satan by quoting God's Word, (Deut. 8:3).

Turn your Bibles to Matthew 4:5-7. Satan and Jesus were up on the highest point of the temple. “Come on, Jesus, throw Yourself down from the temple! You know your Father will send angels to catch you so you won't get hurt.” [Dip spoon in soda and dump in the glass of water.] This was a temptation to let everyone know He was the Messiah. Satan was tempting Him to be proud and to show off so people would follow Him. Would He decide to get people to follow Him by showing off miracles? In verse 7 Jesus once again responded to Satan with scripture. Jesus knew that God would save Him, but He also knew that the Bible forbids people to test God or to force God to act. But His role here on earth was do what God wanted and to serve the people by dying on the cross rather than be praised. He knew that people would know He was the Messiah when He rose from the dead.

Did this discourage Satan? No! Let's read Matthew 4:8-11. Jesus and Satan are at the top of the mountain overlooking Jerusalem [put a scoop of soda in the glass]. Satan is the ruler of this world. He tempted Jesus to give up His worship of God so He would not have to experience physical suffering, God's anger and death. Satan offers to give Jesus the world. All Jesus had to do was give in a little for the moment and bow down to the devil. He could become the ruler of the world and never have to be crucified. Would He decide to worship Satan? Read verse 10. Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:13. Jesus knew that someday He would rule the entire world and Satan. But He knew he needed to continue to trust God.

“Since Jesus has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are being tempted” (Hebrews 2:18). Three times Satan tempted Jesus to sin and three times Jesus resisted. Hebrews 4:15 tells us that “... Jesus was tempted just as we are, yet He never sinned.”

Transition

Now if Satan tempted Jesus, he will certainly tempt us, too. Let's use our imaginations and pretend these three glasses are 3 different people and see how they will respond to temptation.

Learning Activity #1 Lg. Group

A Lesson on Temptation [1]

Instructions: Use the 3 glasses prepared before class to present the object lesson. Read script for Learning Activity #1

[1] Adapted from Stubbs, Bettie. Bible Object Lessons. Standard Publishing Company, Cincinnati, 1954.

Learning Activity# 2 Sm. Groups

Instructions: Choose one or two questions of the questions below that you believe are most relevant to your group. Think about answers ahead of time!

Does it matter to you that Jesus resisted temptation? Why is it important?: Jesus chose to depend on the Father and resist the temptation to sin. He stood against Satan and chose to follow God's will, even though that choice cost Him His life! So why would He do that? Why is it so important to us that He did? Jesus died on the cross for all of our sins. Through His death we can be forgiven. Because Jesus is God, He is able to forgive our sins. Because He was a sinless man, He was able to be the substitute to pay for our sins. Once you receive that forgiveness you have Christ's power to help you resist temptation. He understands all of the temptations we face and will give us the truth and the strength to resist.

Even as Christians, we all give into temptation and sin every day: How do you respond when you realize you have blown it? Do you get mad and blame others, try to hide your guilt, rationalize and argue that your sin is not as bad as someone else's or do you admit that you blew it, thank Jesus that He paid the penalty for your sin when He died on the cross, accept the consequences?

"... Jesus was tempted just as we are, yet He never sinned" (Hebrews 4:15): **Do you think it was easier for Jesus to resist because He was God? Why do you think it gets easier or harder the longer you choose to resist temptation?** (Share an example i.e. resisting the temptation to open a gift early. Compare to how Jesus felt waiting to reveal who he is). Can you imagine having that much power and choosing not to use it? How do you think Jesus felt waiting to tell people he was the Messiah? Have you ever thought what would have happened if Jesus had decided to save Himself from dying?

God's Word is the Key: How did Jesus resist the temptations of Satan? (God's word) **What are some of the verses that help you when you are tempted? How do you think knowing God's Word can help you resist Satan?**

Let's pray and thank God that Jesus resisted temptation so He could be our perfect sacrifice and pay for our sins. Let's ask God to help us learn His Word so we will be prepared to win over temptation when Satan tempts us.

Mission Prayer: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Review key points: we have a sin nature, and we are tempted to sin. Temptation is not sin, acting on temptation is sin. Review key verse.

Review

Optional Activity

Game -- Kick the Balloon Relay [1]

Instructions: Divide children into 3 teams, line up the teams and give each team a balloon. The first player kicks the balloon 3 times, picks it up and runs back, hands it off to the next player, and sits down at the end of the line.

When we face temptation from Satan, the best way to deal with him is to know God's Word, quote it to him and choose to believe and act on God's truth. It's like giving Satan a kick in the pants and saying, "I won't listen to your lies and temptations anymore. Get away from me." When a child of God does this, Satan can't do anything but run away. Let's play a game using balloons to represent Satan. We're going to give him a good kick in the pants to send him away.

[1] Adapted from Bible Games, Grades 1-2. Rainbow Publishers, San Diego, 1988.

LEARNING ACTIVITY #2

First Glass

Let's call this first glass, Billy. Satan sees Billy. [Pick up the soda box.] "Ah, ha!" he says to himself. "Let's tempt Billy to want the things somebody else has!" His friend, Joe, comes to see him on his brand new bicycle and he's showing off his new Nintendo Switch—and it isn't even his birthday! These are just the things Billy's been dying to get! And he doesn't have anything new!

Before Billy knew it, Satan had tempted him and he didn't fight the temptation. He really wanted those things for himself. [Using the spoon with the green food coloring, carefully put the spoon in the box and tip the box to let the soda fall onto the spoon so as not to pollute the soda with green coloring. Put the spoon in the water and stir, coloring the water green. Hold up the glass.] And he wanted these things of Joe's so bad that he couldn't think of anything else. Some people would say he turned green with envy. Everything is discolored when we look through green lenses. In the same way, when we give in to temptation it colors our lives and attitudes. We can't see things the way God does.

Second Glass

[Vinegar and water mixture. Do not tell about the mixture in the glass.] [Point to second glass.] Let's call this second glass, Katherine. Satan knows that Katherine has a problem with anger. So when someone says some really mean things to her, like, "What ugly clothes!" or "You're so stupid!," Satan tempts Katherine to get even because her feelings are hurt. Oh, oh, look what giving in to temptation does to her! [Put the soda into the mixture.] She fumes, fizzes, and finally boils over! [If the mixture doesn't fizz as it should, stir it a little.] She's so angry that she can't see things the way God does.

Third Glass

Let's call this third glass, Jennifer. Satan comes to Jennifer and tempts her to want what someone else has, just like Billy. [Put soda in the glass.] But she doesn't give in to the temptation. Jennifer remembers that the Bible says that God gives her everything she needs and that she should be thankful. So she chooses to think about all that she is thankful for rather than what she doesn't have. The next thing she knows, someone blurts out something mean to her. [Put another spoonful of soda in the glass.] But she has chosen to be like Jesus and has asked Him to help her resist the temptation to yell back something mean. So, she asks God to please help her. He reminds her that she is His child and He loves her. She decides that she will not worry about what other people think of her and asks God to help her care more what He thinks about her than what people think about her.

[Pick up glass and look through it.] Interesting—Jennifer was tempted with the same temptations as Billy and Katherine, but where Billy turned green and Katherine boiled over, Jennifer chose to believe God and asked Him for the power to fight the temptation to sin.

Point out the differences between these three glasses and the glass that represented Jesus earlier.