

Adventures with GOD!

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS (C.1.Spring.3)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13, Luke 4:1-15
Key Verse	Hebrews 4:15
Key Concept	Jesus was tempted like me and the way he faced temptation is an example of how I can face situations when I'm tempted.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Tell three ways that Jesus was tempted 2. Explain how Jesus responded to the temptation 3. Make a list of common temptations that children face today

Life Application

The focus of today's class is when Jesus was tempted. He experienced the different aspects of human life, even the need to overcome temptation. Jesus faced three temptations using the word of God. This is the most effective weapon we have today. Children can learn how to use the word of God in situations when they are tempted, so that they can say "no" to temptation.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Introduction	Paper, markers	5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Introduction	Paper, markers, white board	15 minutes
Dialogue	Bible, work sheets, white paper	30 minutes
Reflections	Paper, markers, Bible verse	15 minutes
Craft	paper plate, sand, gravel, rocks, pipe cleaners, glue	15 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Introduction: When the children arrive, allow them to write on big pieces of paper that you have previously hung around the room. Give them markers and let them write “graffiti” of sorts as they write words/phrases/images of things that are temptations for children today. Help them think through what these things might be. We all have to face temptations. Jesus had to face difficult temptations when he was on earth. Have someone read Hebrews 4:15. Jesus is our high priest because even though he faced similar temptations, he didn’t sin. Today we will see just how Jesus faced temptation head on.

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it’s being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the key verse Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn’t understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

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Dialogue: Divide the class up into 3 groups (A, B, C). One representative from each group should read the following verses out loud (A= Matt. 1:1-4, B= Matt. 1:5-7, C= Matt. 1:8-11). Then give each group a worksheet (found in the following pages). In their groups they should read the indicated passage and work together to fill in the columns in the first part of the worksheet. When they've finished each group will present a report of what they found.

When they've finished their investigations, ask a representative from each group to give a summary of what they found in each column. It would be good to have a white board or a really big piece of white paper where you can make the columns and write down the conclusions they come to. Guide the dialogue about what they've found; ask questions and let them answer. When you come to the column "How did Jesus respond?" add the following ideas if the children don't include them: He listened to God, he did what God said, he centered his life on God. Say, "These three things all of us who are believers of Jesus Christ can do to overcome temptation. We have God's word and we can do what God says and center our life on Jesus. When we walk with God we can overcome temptation using the word of God. There is a second worksheet that you can use to talk more about temptations that we face as humans.

Reflections: To end the class, find or draw three symbols: bread, an angel, a crown. Sit in a circle and pass around these three symbols (drawings of the symbols). Let them look at the symbols, without the need to say anything, then pass it to the person next to them. When the symbols have gone around the circle ask them: in which of these three areas is it hardest for you to say no to temptation? Invite the children to spend time praying, either quietly or out loud, asking God to help them say no to temptation.

Craft: The temptation of Jesus, choices in the wilderness. See following pages.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story)

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead)

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O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week)

W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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INFORMATION SHEET

FIRST TEMPTATION: LISTEN TO GOD

The first temptation that Jesus faced began with Satan's words, "If you're the son of God, tell these stones to turn into bread." (Matt. 4:3) If Jesus would have given in to Satan's temptation, he would have satisfied a basic need – the need for food. We need to remember that Jesus hadn't eaten anything for 40 days (we can't even fathom the hunger he felt). There's nothing wrong with feeding our bodies. God made us with this need. But it wasn't God's plan for Jesus to use his divine powers for his own benefit. In this case Satan was tempting him to abuse his power. Hebrews 4:15 says that Jesus was tempted just as we are and that's why he can understand what we go through. If he would have used his divine power to supplement a basic need, he wouldn't have been able to understand our limitations as humans. We don't have the ability to turn stones into bread when we're hungry (and many people in the world today are dying of hunger). At the same time, if Jesus would have transformed the stones into bread, he would have denied his ability to trust in God to provide for his needs.

But instead of giving in to temptation, Jesus recited from memory an appropriate verse from Scripture (Deut. 8:3). Jesus said "no" to temptation. Listening to God is our first step in overcoming temptation. It's a habit that we need to develop. Jesus couldn't look in the scriptures for the right verse he had to know it. Listening to God through God's word and not listening to Satan's lies is very important. We need to study God's word so we know what God is saying to us.

SECOND TEMPTATION: DO WHAT GOD SAYS

The second thing that Satan did was to take Jesus to the city of Jerusalem to the pinnacle of the Temple. There he said, "If you are the son of God throw yourself off this temple, because it's written that he will send his angels to keep you from falling." Satan tempted Jesus to prove to everyone his importance in God's eyes. He would get something good (people would recognize him as the Messiah) doing something bad (revealing his identity in a way that calls attention to himself). That would have been a bad use of God's power.

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Instead of giving in to temptation, Jesus used the word of God (Deut. 6:16) to come back at Satan. Tempting God isn't the same thing as trusting God. Jesus trusted his life to God's hands. An example of tempting God would be "God I trust you, so keep me safe as I play in the middle of the road. Don't let any cars hit me to show my friends how much you love me." This temptation attacked Jesus' ego. He was tempted to substitute God's plan for his own plan. But, Jesus said "no" to temptation because he knew God's plans are always best. Jesus decided to do what God said. We too can do what God says, by following what's in God's word.

THIRD TEMPTATION: CENTER OUR LIFE IN GOD

The final temptation was that of offering all of the kingdoms of the world to Jesus if he bowed down and worshipped Satan. If Jesus would have given into the temptation, Satan would have given him glory and all the kingdoms of earth, without having to go to the cross. But that would be a complete mistake because the Bible says that we only worship God the creator and we serve this God. It doesn't matter how difficult life gets, only God, the God of the universe deserves our praise. No creation, including Satan, deserves our praise. If Jesus had gained all of the kingdoms of the earth without dying on the cross, we would still be lost in sin with no hope for salvation.

Jesus knew these things and answered Satan using Scripture: "Go away from me Satan, because it's written: worship God alone and serve only God."

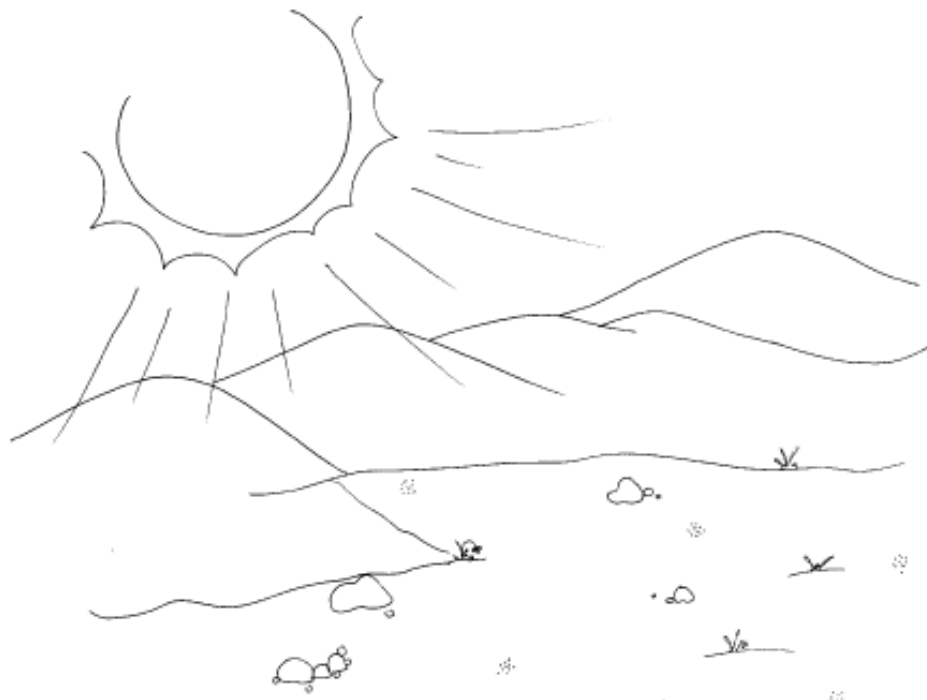
Children need to understand that there is no sin in wanting good things, but there is sin when we want to get them in a way that is not correct and honors God. If we say lies, abuse others, worship other idols, or if becoming getting things becomes our goal, this is sin. We can be tempted to be envious and rob others.

In his conflict with Satan, Jesus had to confront the same temptations that we confront each day. In Jesus' word he showed Satan that God was number one in his life, and that he would only worship and serve God. We too need to center our lives on God.

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ILLUSTRATION

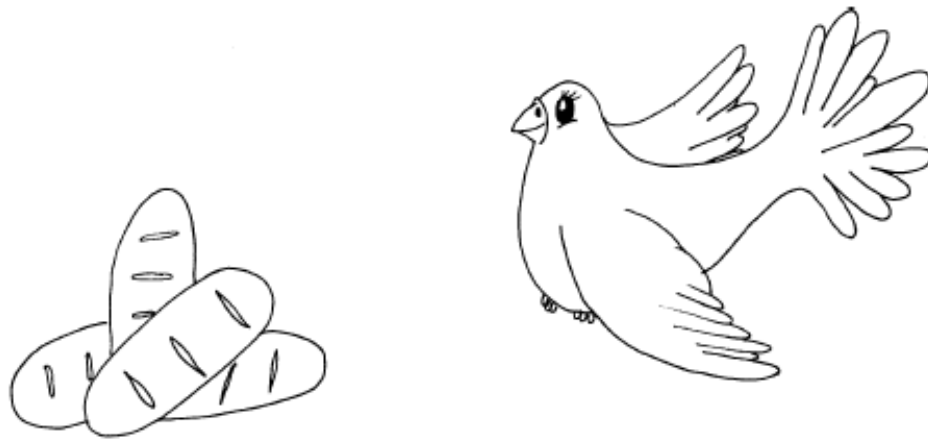
The desert



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SYMBOLS

Enlarge the following symbols to use for your discussion today.



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INFORMATION SHEET

Each group should fill out one column

Then they can fill in the other columns when the other groups present

Bible reference – Matthew 1:1-4	Bible reference – Matthew 1:5-7	Bible reference – Matthew 1:8-11
The temptation was -	The temptation was -	The temptation was –
Overcoming temptation with God’s word –	Overcoming temptation with God’s word -	Overcoming temptation with God’s word -

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<p>Bible reference – Matthew 1:1-4</p> <p>After he was baptized Jesus spent time in fasting (he didn't eat and he was in the desert) for 40 days and nights. Jesus was very hungry and Satan tempted him. Jesus responded by quoting Scripture from memory.</p>	<p>Bible reference – Matthew 1:5-7</p> <p>After Satan took Jesus to the highest part of the temple and said, "If you're the son of God, jump off." Satan was reciting the Psalms where it says that God would send angels to protect him. Jesus came back at him with Scripture.</p>	<p>Bible reference – Matthew 1:8-11</p> <p>After Satan took Jesus to a mountain and said he would give him all the kingdoms of the world, if he worshiped Satan. Jesus said "no" and came back with Scripture.</p>
<p>The temptation was –</p> <p>Use his divine powers to take care of a basic need. Feed his body instead of his spirit.</p>	<p>The temptation was –</p> <p>Do something God had prohibited to test God.</p>	<p>The temptation was –</p> <p>Fame, power, recognition, instead of worshiping the one true God.</p>
<p>Overcoming temptation with God's word –</p> <p>Jesus cited Deut. 8:3. God says we need to listen to God's word and obey to overcome temptation.</p>	<p>Overcoming temptation with God's word –</p> <p>Jesus cited Deut. 6:16. God says we shouldn't test God.</p>	<p>Overcoming temptation with God's word –</p> <p>Jesus cited Deut. 6:13. God says we should worship and serve the only true God.</p>

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WORKSHEET 2

Satan tries to tempt us in similar ways, as he did Jesus (read the examples of temptations below and make a circle around the number that represents what type of temptation it is and how to combat it – based on the previous worksheet)

1. Take your classmate's notebook. If you get caught, God will forgive you. 1 2 3
2. You are so hungry. Don't worry, eat your brother's candy. 1 2 3
3. The cashier gave you too much change back. What do you do? Do you keep it? 1 2 3
4. You can watch the movie. You'll forget the bad parts. 1 2 3
5. You're too tired to go to church. Just stay in bed. 1 2 3
6. You can make a lot of friends if you help people cheat on their test. 1 2 3
7. Make fun of a girl, who the rest of your class makes fun of. Every will think you're funny.
1 2 3
8. Don't give your offering at church. You'll have more for yourself to spend. 1 2 3
9. Just try these drugs. They won't hurt you. 1 2 3
10. People will accept you more if they don't know you're a Christian. 1 2 3

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CRAFT – The Temptation of Jesus/Choices in the wilderness

Some of the children may learn best doing something with their hands. This craft allows them to visualize what it was like for Jesus to be tempted.

Materials – paper plate (made out of paper or foam), sand, 15 small rocks, 1 bigger stone, 1 pipe cleaner, glue

Instructions –

1. Put glue on the plate and sprinkle on the sand. Before it's dry, use your fingers to draw some "paths" like you see in the illustration below.
2. Put a little glue on each small stone and put them on the plate – scattered.
3. Put glue on the big stone and glue it on the plate.
4. Make a figure of Jesus out of pipe cleaners and put it on the big rock with glue.
5. Review the temptation and the choices Jesus had to make.

