



**PRAY** *Have a parent open up this lesson in prayer*

“Dear God, we thank you for our families. We thank you that you are our perfect Saviour. Help us to trust you and love you more. Amen”

## **OPENING ACTIVITY**

*This or That?*

*Designate two sides of the room. You may hang signs that say “A” or “B” or “This” or “That”. Ask kids about how they would act given different options, and instruct them to walk to different sides of the room to indicate their answer. Examples—do you like cake or ice cream. Would you want 1 present now or 3 presents in the future. Your own room or share a room etc.*

**Say:** If we faced some of these situations in real life, we would probably be tempted to choose the selfish, sinful options. Today we will learn about a time Jesus was tempted. We will learn how Jesus fought back and chose to obey God.

**Ask:** Jesus faced temptation because Jesus is fully human. Our big picture question relates to this. Our question is: **Why did Jesus become human?**

**Say:** Remember, Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners.

**Say:** Because the fair payment for sin is death, the only way for sinners to be saved is through the death of a perfect sacrifice. Because Jesus is fully human but never sinned, He was able to be the perfect sacrifice we needed! Let's read our Bible story.

## The **BIBLE** Story

### Jesus' Temptation

*Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4*

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus did not eat for 40 days and 40 nights. He prayed and thought about God's plan for His life.

When those days were over, Jesus was hungry.

Then the devil, who tempts people to sin, came up to Jesus. He said, "If You are really God's Son, prove it. Tell these stones to become bread."

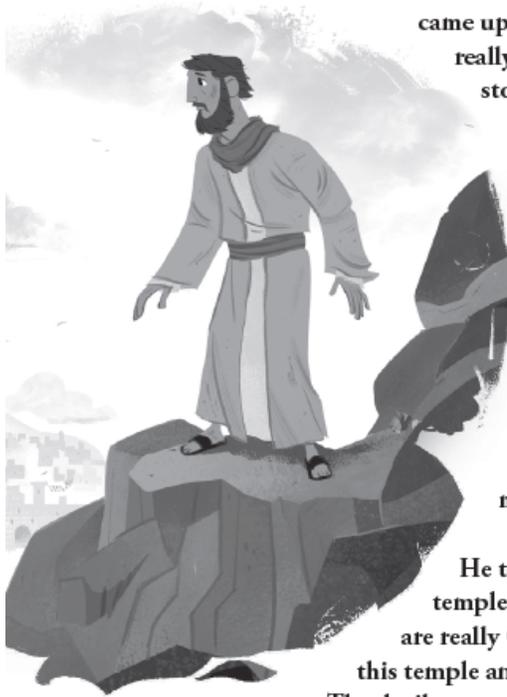
If Jesus used His power to turn the stones into bread, He could eat them so He wouldn't be hungry anymore. But Jesus refused. Instead of using His own power, Jesus chose to trust God to meet His needs. Jesus said, "God's Word says that man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

The devil tempted Jesus again.

He took Jesus to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and said, "If You are really God's Son, prove it. Jump off this temple and trust God to protect You."

The devil even said: "God's Word says that God will order His angels to keep You safe, and they will protect You so that You will not even strike your foot against a stone."

The devil had used words from Scripture, but Jesus knew the devil's



command was foolish. Jesus reminded him, “God’s Word also says, do not test the Lord your God.”

Finally, the devil took Jesus to a high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and how great they were. The devil said to Jesus, “I will give You all the riches and power of these kingdoms. They belong to me, and I can give them to anyone I want. If You want them, all You have to do is fall down and worship me.”

Jesus resisted temptation again. He replied, “Go away, Satan! God’s Word says: Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”

The devil left Jesus, and angels came right away to serve Jesus. Throughout all these temptations, Jesus never sinned.

*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.*

#### **Bible Storytelling Tips**

- **Display a prop:** Each time you tell how Jesus responded to temptation, hold up the Bible.
- **Use dramatic conversation:** During dialogue, stand in various places for each speaker—Jesus and the devil.

## Take to Heart

*As a family, take time to memorize the Key Bible Passage over the next several weeks! Take it to heart and notice how God's Word becomes alive in you!*

“He must become greater; I must become less.”

— John 3:30

**LEARN** *Take turns reading as parents, OR have kids read parts of the lesson.*

**Ask: Why was Jesus in the wilderness?**

**Say:** Jesus was in the wilderness without food because that is what God's Spirit told Jesus to do. That is called fasting. A fast is a way of giving up creaturely comfort in order to live in both spiritual and physical dependence upon God.

**Ask: What did Satan do to tempt Jesus?**

**Say:** Satan tempted Jesus turn stones in bread, jump off the temple, and to worship Satan to get riches and power!

**Ask: Would it have been a sin for Jesus to make bread?**



**Say:** It is usually not sinful to make bread, but the devil wanted Jesus to stop obeying God. Jesus was in the wilderness because God's Spirit led Him there. If Jesus had chosen to use His power to turn stones

into bread, He would have been disobeying God. Jesus never used His power to satisfy is own desires, He used His power only to glorify God!

**Ask: How did Jesus obey God?**

**Say:** Every time Jesus obeyed God and resisted Satan’s temptation, He used a Bible passage! But did you notice what Satan did the second time he tried to trick Jesus to make Him sin? The devil tried to twist the meaning of Scripture to make it seem like something sinful was not sinful! Satan does the same thing today—he tries to tell us that things that really are sinful are “not sinful.” Thankfully, Jesus is more powerful than all of Satan’s tricks. God’s plan never failed, and Jesus saw right through the devil’s lie. Jesus was tempted and never sinned!

**Say:** Jesus remained perfect, just like He has always been and always will be. SO when the time came for Jesus to obey God by dying on the cross, He was the perfect sacrifice just as God planned. Because Jesus died on the cross for us and rose again, we receive forgiveness of sins and the power to resist temptation.

**PRACTICE YOUR FAITH**

*The Word of God changes lives! These lessons too should lead us to change and be a new person in Jesus Christ! Take time to talk about ways you can live into this teaching.*

**Ask: Why am I still tempted if I believe in Jesus?**

*Everyone who trusts in Jesus is a new creation! God forgives their sin and gives them a new heart that loves God and wants to obey God. God also sends the Holy Spirit to live in us and fill us with His power. We will still be tempted to sin, but with the Holy Spirit, we can resist temptation and obey God.*

**PRAY**

“God, thank you that Jesus was tempted and never sinned. We know that He perfectly understands our suffering and pain, but also obeys you at all times. Help us love You more and obey You as Jesus did. Amen.

# THE GOSPEL

## GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



**GOD RULES.** Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



**WE SINNED.** Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



**GOD PROVIDED.** Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



**JESUS GIVES.** Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



**WE RESPOND.** Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

Hint for Next Week's Lesson: can you guess what it is on?

