



3rd – 5th

January 19-20, 2013

DATE

Jesus is Tempted

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 4:1-11; Hebrews 4:15

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus fought temptation with truth

MAIN POINT

schedule

Play games and hang out (10 minutes)
Large group (30 minutes)
Small group (20 minutes)
Video/song review (10 minutes)

tips

Keep in mind that some kids are new. Take time to play a game with a new kid and introduce them to someone their age who is a "regular."

check-in/out

As kids check-in, remind parents that **kids will get two marshmallows to eat today. Put allergy stickers on kids who are allergic to any of the ingredients!

large group heads up

Today, we're talking about the temptation of Jesus. We all get tempted because the devil is trying desperately to keep us from following God...but we don't have to give in. Jesus showed us how to combat temptation: through truth.



instructions

Goal: To help kids identify a temptation they face and replace it with God's truth.

Why? When tempted, we should follow Jesus' example. That's what he did!

Tip: Get a feel for your group. If they seem rowdy, you may want to give them marshmallows to eat *after* you finish discussion—or skip that part altogether. And before you give out any, **CHECK FOR ALLERGIES!**

QUESTIONS

CONNECT

1. Share your name and one temptation kids have. It can be things you see kids doing at school that they shouldn't, something you've seen on TV, or even the thing you thought of in large group—the one (put finger up) thing that tempts you.

REFLECT/RESPOND

2. ****DO THE ACTIVITY FIRST**
3. Does anybody want to share what they wrote on their marshmallow and which truth they replaced it with? (encourage kids to share—start by sharing your own)
4. Why should we fight temptation by figuring out how God wants us to act? (we are following Jesus' example)
5. Read Hebrews 4:15 again: ***Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he***
(continued on next page)

ACTIVITY

SAY: Some of you shared what tempts you personally. Some of you shared things you see kids your age get tempted to do. Either way, I want you to think of ONE of the things *you* are tempted to do—ONE of the things you *want* to do, even though you know you shouldn't. It can be what you thought of in large group...or something else!

1. **DO:** Give each kid a marshmallow and a marker. (Give yourself one too! Model the activity for the kids. You'll share the temptation you write down so be honest, but make sure it's kid-friendly! You may want to flatten to the mallow to write more easily.)

SAY: Write the thing you're tempted to do on this marshmallow. (Let kids write.)

2. **DO:** Spread the 6 large colored verse cards out on the table.

SAY: Now I'm going to read you some of God's truth. Listen and see if God has anything to say about how you're tempted. (continued on next page)

QUESTIONS

was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin! Now react: how does that make you feel and why?

6. When the devil was trying to get Jesus to stop following God, did Jesus ever give in to the temptation? (no!)

*Remind the kids that they can read the verse they chose this week if they feel tempted. They can also ask Jesus to come help them fight temptation—because he understands! ***Pray together to ask Jesus to help you fight temptation this week.***

*If you have extra time, you can grab a game and bring it back to your small group. Or continue to talk about other temptations. Repeat the marshmallow game but on paper: write temptations on paper, read one of the verses aloud and rip them up. Here are some temptations to discuss:

1. Fear (you can ask kids what they fear and write them on the paper)
2. Talking bad about others/hurting other people (in person or online!)
3. Disobeying parents or being rude to parents (discuss ways that happens)

ACTIVITY

If you hear one that you like, take a card with that verse on it!

3. **DO:** Read the verses out loud. Let the kids point to the one that applies to their marshmallow. **Help them understand how one of the verses can apply.* Then give them each their own sheet of 6 verses. Tell them they can cut them out when they get home. They can put one in their pocket to help remember it or tape it to their mirror. They can use the others too!

SAY: Okay, now that you have God's truth, throw away your marshmallow in this brown paper bag! We can get rid of our temptations by replacing them with truth, just like Jesus.

4. **DO:** After kids have thrown away their marshmallows, wad up the bag to throw away, and give them two marshmallows to eat. **(CHECK ALLERGIES FIRST)**

SAY: God's truth is always best! Keep your verse and next time you're tempted, read it out loud. And as we finish small group, eat those marshmallows to remind yourself of how sweet following God is!

5. **DO:** Collect the table's colored verse cards for the next service to use.

RETURN TO QUESTION #3

LARGE group

special notes

We're trying a new way of telling the Bible story today. Our goal is to engage kids with Scripture. Let us know how it goes!

presenter tips

Each grade, service, and site is different. A portion of today's lesson could really benefit from your personal touch. Prepare beforehand so you're ready to engage the kids!

script

WELCOME

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. Before we get started today, I have a special announcement. In just TWO weeks, it'll be Super Bowl weekend. And we have some pretty amazing things planned for Kids' Club. Here's a trailer to give you a taste of what you'll see in here on Super Bowl weekend.

Video: Super Bowl trailer

REVIEW

We've got some exciting stuff today too! Right now, we're talking about Jesus' life. He was born as a baby and grew up just like us...except that he was man AND God. He came to rescue us!

Before he rescued us, Jesus showed us how to live. One thing he did was get baptized. Does anybody remember who baptized Jesus? (Let kids respond.) Yes, John the Baptist! He was a strange guy who ate bugs and lived in the desert, but he had a really special job: preparing people for Jesus.

And when Jesus was baptized, Heaven opened up. Remember, the Holy Spirit came down and God spoke and announced that Jesus was his son! Now, we can follow his example and get baptized if we want to announce that *we're* following Jesus.

INTRO: TEMPTATION

Today, we're going to hear about what happened *right after* Jesus was baptized. Remember, Jesus was on earth as a human. And as humans, we've all faced something called *temptation*. Temptation is when we really *want* to do something...that we know we shouldn't do.

Let's watch a video to see what temptation looks like. The kids in the video have one marshmallow that they REALLY want to eat. But *if* they wait to eat it, they'll get two. If they don't



script continued

wait, they only get the one. They know they shouldn't eat the one...but they *really* want to.

As you watch how these kids feel tempted, I want you to think about what something in your life you REALLY want to do...even though you know you shouldn't!

Video: Marshmallow Test (1 min, 48 seconds)

Did you see how badly those kids wanted the marshmallows? They were *tempted* to eat the one marshmallow in front of them!

Now think of one thing you are tempted to do. Don't share it with anyone, just think of it in your head. Maybe you want to cheat on a test at school ...or disobey your parentsor even talk right now while you should be listening...Raise one finger when you've thought of ONE way you're tempted. (Model and wait for kids to raise fingers.)

JESUS WAS TEMPTED

Now that you have something in your head, put your fingers down. Guess what? *Jesus* was tempted too. But do you think Jesus ever made a choice to do what he knew was wrong? (Let kids respond). No way! Hebrews 4:15 says:

SLIDE: Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin!

Jesus shows us how to act when we're tempted and how to keep from making bad choices. We're going to read the story of the time the devil tempted Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11. *Listen carefully.* We're going to see how Jesus kept from giving in to temptation.

JESUS OVERCAME TEMPTATION

But you know what? I sometimes make mistakes when I'm reading...If you guys hear a mistake, put up one finger again and hold it high. I'll need your help to get this story straight!

Read the story including mistakes (a page with the text has been inserted into the Bible, so no need to memorize. You can open the Bible and read.) The correct word is in the parentheses. When a mistake is caught, act flustered and read the story over correctly. Also, you can check to see if anybody put fingers up, even when you haven't made a mistake. Then affirm that the story is correct. Feel free to add your own personal flair to engage kids—just make sure your read everything correctly after a mistake is caught!

Also, you may want to use voices for Jesus and the devil! Be creative!

Matthew 4:1-11: "The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There the devil tempted him. After 40 days and 40 nights of going without eating, Jesus was **stuffed**. (hungry)

The tempter came to him. He said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become **hamburgers**." (bread)



script continued

Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man doesn’t live only on bread. He also lives on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” *Jesus was quoting a verse from the Bible, found in the book of Deuteronomy!*

Then the devil took Jesus to **Kings Island**. (the holy city) He had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw **gummy worms** (yourself) down. It is written,

“The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you.
They will lift you up in their hands.
Then you won’t trip over a stone.”

Jesus answered him, “It is also written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” *Jesus was quoting a verse from the Bible again!*

Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed him all the **skateboarders** (mountains) of the world and their glory. “If you bow down and worship me,” he said, “I will give you an **iPod**.” (all of this)

Jesus said to him, “Get away from me, Satan! It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.’” *Again, Jesus quoted the Bible!* Then the devil left Jesus. Angels came and took care of him.”

JESUS OVERCAME TEMPTATION

Whew! Thanks for your help! I think we finally got it. And did anybody notice what Jesus did each time the devil tempted him? **Turn and tell a friend what Jesus did.** (Let kids respond). Raise your hand if you or a friend said he told the devil what GOD wanted him to do by quoting Bible verses. (Let kids respond.) If so, you’re *exactly* right!

Each time the devil tempted Jesus....Jesus told him what GOD said. And then he followed God. He NEVER gave in to temptation!

WE ARE IN A BATTLE

Does anybody remember who led Jesus into the desert? (Let kids respond.) Yes, the Holy Spirit! But while Jesus was following the Holy Spirit, who came in and tried to tempt Jesus? (Let kids respond.) Yes, the devil.

The devil wants to stop all of us from following God and the Holy Spirit. To do that, he tries to get us to do things that God doesn’t want us to do. **But we don’t have to give in to temptation. We can act like Jesus and fight back with God’s truth!**

WORSHIP

Let’s sing a song to remember that God is with us. And every time we’re scared or worried...or *tempted*, we’re not alone. We can ask Jesus to help us—and he understands exactly how we feel!



script continued

Worship Video: I'm Not Alone

Worship Video: Brave-A-Ree

PRAY

Will somebody come pray for us and ask Jesus to help us fight temptation this week?

name



PREP needs



small group supplies

Per kid:

- 3 big marshmallows
- 1 marker (any type/color)
- 1 verse sheet (verse PDF in curriculum folder—print on orange or green, brightly colored cardstock).

Per small group:

- 1 brown paper bag

2 Bibles

- a few pieces of paper
- 6 sheets of brightly colored cardstock (ideally, 6 different colors—or as many different colors as possible) with one verse printed on each (6-page template in curriculum folder)

large group supplies

Bible

Page with Matthew 4:1-11 printed (doc in curriculum folder)

a/v needs

1. Video: Super Bowl trailer
2. Video: Marshmallow experiment (first 1:48 of this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EjJsPylEOY>)
3. Slide: Hebrews 4:15 (exact wording in script)
4. Worship Video: I'm Not Alone
5. Worship Video: Brave-A-Ree

special room set-up

connect questions

Today, kids will eat two big marshmallows. If your kid has an allergy, give him or her an **allergy alert sticker**.

parent page

Today's story is found in the Bible in Matthew 4:1-11. It's about the time the devil tempted Jesus. We talked about how Jesus fought temptation: he figured out how God would want him to act and did that instead. We practiced replacing our temptations with truth too. Ask your kids why we used marshmallows in small groups today.