

## Jesus Temptation- Matthew 4:1-11

### THE POINT

Focus:

Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus has power over himself and over temptation to serve and obey the Father.

Application:

We trust that Jesus is the Son of God.

We follow God by the Spirit in the face of temptation.

Last Week: The Parable of the Lost Coin

2 Weeks Ago: The Parable of the Mustard Seed

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### HEART CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

#### MATERIALS:

- 2 blindfolds
- 1 piece of colored construction paper.

#### ACTIVITY:

Choose 2 volunteers who are willing to be blindfolded, and have them wait outside the classroom. In the rest of the class, choose 1 volunteer who will be The Truth Teller, and explain that the rest of the class are The Deceivers.

The goal of the activity is for the Truth Teller to use words to guide blindfolded children to a construction-paper spot on the other side of the room.

The Deceivers are using their words to give false messages to try to confuse the blindfolded child and send them the wrong direction. Give them 1 minute to try to find the spot.

Then, repeat the activity, but allow the blindfolded children to listen to the voice of the Truth Teller before the game starts so they know which voice to be listening for in the chaos.

After the children find the correct spot, have everyone sit down in a circle to talk about the activity. Use questions like these:

**What just happened in that game?** (allow a few children to share their perspective on the activity).

**How did it feel behind the blindfold?** Was it easier the first or the second time? Why?

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## STORY CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

PREK and KINDERGARTEN:

MATERIALS:

- No necessary supplies. Sometimes a thoughtful illustration from a children's Bible helps add context.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Before you read, introduce the phrase, "As it is written" to the children:

Three times, Jesus says, "It is written". When he says this, he doesn't mean that someone happened to write something down and he's reading it, he means that what he says was written by God-followers who were sharing God's Word. Jesus is quoting the Bible.

Use motions:

In our story today, there are 3 phrases for you to listen for. When you hear me say...

3 motions:

- 1) "As it is written": Open your hands like a book to read.
- 2) "The devil": wag your finger and say, "The devil lied to Jesus!"
- 3) "The Lord your God": point to heaven and say, "Trust God alone"

Let's use our listening ears to hear what happened to Jesus and how Jesus chose to trust his Heavenly Father.

FIRST & SECOND MATERIALS:

MATERIALS:

- No necessary supplies. For 1st and 2nd graders, it can be helpful to invite them to follow along in their own Bibles.

Instructions:

Use the actions above. If you have older children or want more interaction, consider adding these motions:

"Highest point of the temple" (verse 5): Stand on one foot

"Very high mountain" (verse 8): stand up on your tip-toes

*Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.*

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*Before we start, there is a new phrase that we need to learn.*

*3 times, Jesus says, “It is written”. When he says this, he doesn’t mean that someone happened to write something down and he’s reading it, he means that the thing he is about to say was written by God-followers who were sharing God’s Word.*

*The things that Jesus says weren’t just written, they were truth written by God!*

#### Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There the devil tempted him. 2 After 40 days and 40 nights of going without eating, Jesus was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him. He said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

4 Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” (Deuteronomy 8:3)

5 Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city. He had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw 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.’ ” (Psalm 91:11,12)

7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written, ‘Do not test the Lord your God.’ ” (Deuteronomy 6:16)

8 Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 “If you bow down and worship me,” he said, “I will give you all this.”

10 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.’ ” (Deuteronomy 6:13)

11 Then the devil left Jesus. Angels came and took care of him.

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### **WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)**

I wonder what it was like to go for forty days and nights without food.

I wonder what it was like to try to listen to God's voice instead of temptation.

I wonder how God felt when God saw Jesus' faithfulness.

What do you wonder?

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### **SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)**

**MATERIALS:** Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

**Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.**