

The Temptation of Jesus

After Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, he was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. For forty days and forty nights he ate nothing and became very hungry. There, the Devil came and tempted him. The Devil wanted Jesus to obey him and to make Jesus sin. But, Jesus knew the Devil's wish, so he chased him away.



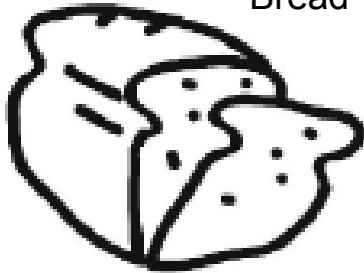
“Jesus said to him, Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'”
Matthew 4:10

Why did the Devil
want Jesus to obey
him?

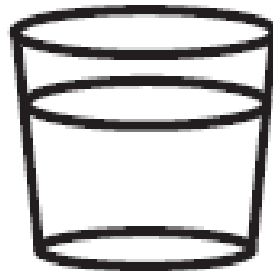


**Which of the following things help us to
gain victory over temptation?**

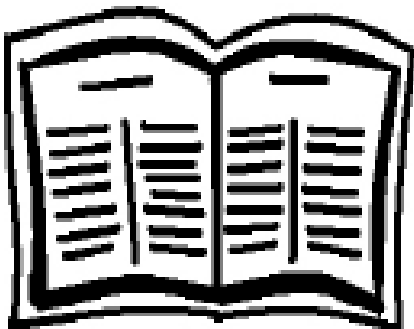
Bread



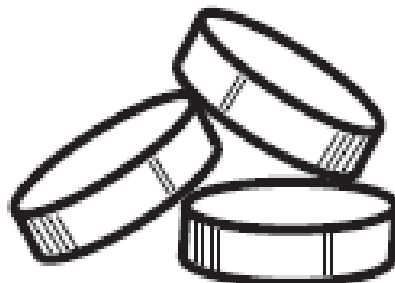
Water



The Bible



Money



Lesson 8

The Temptation of Jesus

Bible Text: Matthew 4:1-11

Key Verse: Matthew 4:10

Purpose: The children will understand how to follow Jesus' example to gain victory over temptation.

Please note!

Plan suitable activities for your group of children. The following activities can be adapted depending on the group's size, age, ability, the amount of time available, etc.

I. Lesson

After the children finish on the coloring page, read from Matthew 4:1-11, using a different voice intonation for each role. Then explain the story.

After John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, he was led out into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted. Why did God do this? He did this to prove to the whole world that Jesus was indeed the Son of God (knowing how to resist the Devil's temptations), to show his holiness (Jesus never sinned) and to show us what to do when the Devil tempts us. Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights (meaning that he ate nothing during this time) and he became very hungry.

Then the Devil took advantage of his weakness and came to him and said: "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." The Lord Jesus, knowing what the Devil wanted from Him, said: No! "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

The Devil continued to tempt Jesus and he took him to the highest point of the Temple and said: "If you are the Son of God, he said, throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" But the Lord Jesus knew the Devil's thoughts, so he said: "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" But the Devil, being very insistent, took him to the peak of a very high mountain. He showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and said to Him: "All this I will give you if you will bow down and worship me." But Jesus said, quoting Scripture: "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the Devil went away, and the angels came and cared for Jesus. Jesus won the victory over the Devil using the words of the Bible.

Things to remember!

1. The Devil will be sure to tempt you when you want to live for God. For example when you want to pray, to behave well, to be obey your parents, etc. The Devil will try to take advantage of your weaknesses. If he tried this with the Son of God, he will try to do this with you too.
2. The Lord Jesus answered the Devil each time using the Scriptures. Read the

- Bible and memorize some passages. Do not try to defeat the Devil using your power, because you will not be successful. Use the Bible to send him away.
3. The Devil tried to tempt the Lord Jesus by promising him lots of things. But he was not successful. He will tempt you, too, using things that at first seem beautiful. But, if you know what God wants from his children, you'll know when and how the Devil wants to trick you.
 4. The Lord Jesus did not worship the Devil. Like Jesus, you must only worship God.
 5. When the Devil left, God's angels came and cared for Jesus. When you obey God, he will take care of you.
 6. By knowing the Scriptures and obeying his Father, the Lord Jesus was victorious. Only in this way can you gain victory over the Devil.

Suggestion: For the younger children you can make up a short story that shows how a young boy or girl resisted temptation...

II. Activities

1. Key Verse

- a. Read out loud the Bible verse.

Jesus said to him, Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' Matthew 4:10

- b. Explain the verse using questions which will help the children memorize it.

- How did Jesus answer when the Devil asked him to worship him?
- How must you answer to the Devil when he tries to tempt you?

- c. Help the children memorize the verse.

2. Review questions for the children:

- Why did the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into the wilderness?
- How many times did the Devil try to tempt Jesus?
- How did Jesus respond to temptation?
- What can you do to overcome temptation?

III. Conclusion

Only God and the Scriptures can help you to defeat temptation. Run away from the Devil! Go away as far as you can! Read and memorize the Bible. The Bible's words are like a high wall to protect us from the temptation.