

# THE TEMPTATION OF CHRIST JESUS

MATTHEW 4:1-11; MARK 1:12-13; LUKE 4:1-13

## GOAL

- ▶ To help children understand that Jesus lived a sinless life, despite being tempted by the same types of temptation we face.
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## CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Jesus:** Led by the Holy Spirit, He spent 40 days fasting in the desert; during this time, Satan tempted Him to sin; He never committed a single sin.

**Satan:** Tempted Jesus to sin, but he was not successful.

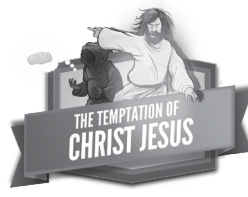
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## MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Matthew 4:10:** Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"
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## OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read Matthew 4:1-11:** After John the Baptist baptized Him, the Holy Spirit led Jesus to spend 40 days in the wilderness to fast. While He was in the desert, Satan came and tempted Him three times: once to make food for himself, a second time to test whether God would let Him be hurt, and a third and final time to gain power over the world. Jesus resisted each temptation by reciting Scripture.



## SUGGESTIONS

When Jesus lived as a man on earth, He never once sinned. How can someone who lived a perfect life possibly relate to the problems we have? Jesus experienced all of the complications of life we face today: He experienced grief, joy, betrayal, friendship, pain, and temptation. **Jesus faced temptation following His 40 days of fasting in the desert. Satan tempted Him with things that tempt us to sin and take our focus off of God and His will for our lives.**

**1. Hunger:** Jesus hadn't eaten anything for 40 days—you can imagine how hungry He was! Satan tempted Him to use His power to turn a rock into a loaf of bread. He had the power to do it, so why didn't He? Two reasons: 1) He knew that it was God's will for Him to fast and be tested; and 2) Doing so would mean He didn't trust God to provide for Him. He resisted this temptation by reciting Scripture.

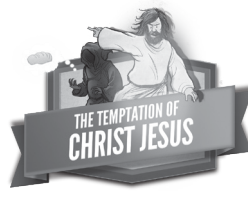
**2. Life:** When Satan told Jesus to throw Himself off the temple, he was basically calling out Jesus to prove that He trusted God to protect Him from harm. He resisted, and quoted Scripture to prove His rationale.

**3. Power:** How could ruling over the earth possibly tempt Jesus, when regaining control over Creation was the reason He was on earth in the first place? Satan offered Jesus a much easier way to obtain this power when compared to God's plan. Satan asked that Jesus worship him—God's plan required Jesus to suffer cruelly and die an excruciating death. While much easier, obtaining power Satan's way wouldn't accomplish any of Jesus' goals: redeeming our sins, restoring our relationship with God, and conquering death. He proved His rationale for not giving in to this temptation by quoting Scripture.

## PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

**Tug-of-War Temptation | Supplies:** a thick, long rope.

Play tug-of-war, and use it as an object lesson to demonstrate the power and pull of temptation.



## MEMORY

## VERSE

## MEANING

## POST-LESSON

## ACTIVITY

## TAKE

## HOME

- ▷ **Matthew 4:10:** When Jesus faced temptation, He looked to Scripture to help Him resist. We should do the same. The Word of God is the divinely inspired instruction manual for life.

- ▷ **Let's Make a Deal! | Supplies:** fake money from a board game like Monopoly or Life and enough prizes for each student, such as a cookie, a dollar bill, or a toy.

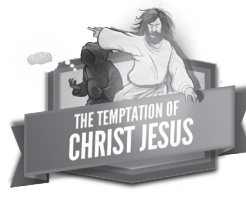
Give each student five fake bills from a board game—explain that the denominations don't matter, just the actual number of bills. Explain that the object of the game is to have the most bills. Call on each student, and offer them one of the prizes for some amount of the money they have. If you don't have enough tempting prizes, make up some. For example, "If you give me two of your bills, I will give you the title of Official Classroom Assistant." If a student chooses a prize, you take the amount specified and they take their prize. Play for as long as you like or until you run out of prizes. The student with the most fake bills at the end wins the game.

- ▷ While we are incapable of living sinless lives like Jesus, His life serves as an example for us. How can we resist temptation like Jesus?

**1. Trust God:** Many temptations stem from worry, but God tells us we should be anxious for nothing. Faith is putting our absolute trust in God for every part of our lives. If we're going to put our trust in anything or anyone, why not an infallible, all-powerful, loving God?

**2. Look to Scripture:** Maybe you're tempted by something, but you're not sure if it's bad. Look to Scripture for answers. While there may not be a literal answer to the problem you're facing, there will be something that addresses your situation.

**3. Follow the Holy Spirit:** Often referred to as your conscience, the Holy Spirit acts as your guide through life. That feeling you get when presented with the opportunity to do something wrong is the Holy Spirit urging you to not do it. Follow the urging of the Holy Spirit.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** What did Jesus do while in the wilderness?

**A1:** He fasted, prayed, and prepared for His ministry.

**Q1b:** Which environment is better for reading: a rock concert or alone in a quiet room?

**TN:** It would be very hard to concentrate and understand the concepts being discussed in a book while at a rock concert. All the noise and people would be very distracting. Sometimes our lives get so hectic, that it's hard for us to concentrate and focus. Fasting can help us to remove the noise and needs of our daily lives so we can focus on God and strengthening our spirits.

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### SLIDE 2

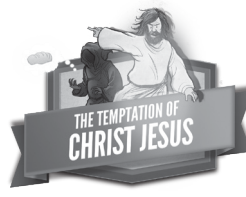


**Q2a:** How long had Jesus gone without eating?

**A2:** Forty days

**Q2b:** Would you eat a non-poisonous spider?

**TN:** Let the students answer, then ask them if they would eat a non-poisonous spider if it was the only thing they could find after not eating for 40 days. It is unlikely that any of the students will have ever tried fasting, so this question will help them to understand how incredibly hungry Jesus was at this point in the story.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** How did Satan suggest Jesus get food?

**A3:** Satan said Jesus should turn stones into bread.

**Q3b:** What food could tempt you to disobey your parents' request to not eat anything before dinner?

**TN:** This is an easy way to get students thinking about temptation. We know we should obey our parents, but it's hard to do when we're hungry and staring at a pack of fresh Twinkies!

### SLIDE 4

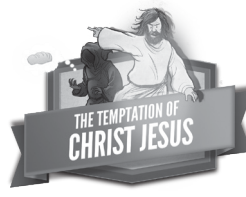


**Q4a:** Where did Satan take Jesus next?

**A4:** Satan took Jesus to the highest spot on the temple.

**Q4b:** If you trust someone to do something for you, do you need to double check their work?

**TN:** No, to trust a person to do something means that you know this person can and will do it right without having to check their work. Jesus quoted Scripture saying we should not test God. When we are tempted to test God, it's not God we are unsure of, it's our faith that is uncertain.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** What did Satan offer Jesus?

**A5:** Satan offered Jesus power over all of the kingdoms if He would worship him.

**Q5b:** Your parent will buy you a bike if you do your chores, but your friend offers to help you steal it. Which option do you choose?

**TN:** Either way, we get the bike. Stealing it gets us the bike right away and without having to do any work, but it is a sin. This is the situation Satan presented Jesus in an attempt to get Him to sin. Jesus' mission on earth will ultimately give Him reign over all people and control over all of the earth. Obtaining this goal by way of God's plan required Jesus to suffer and die a horrible death. Taking Satan's offer would be a sinful shortcut to power, but it would not glorify God or help Him to defeat sin and death.

### SLIDE 6

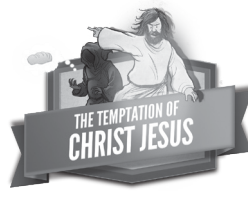


**Q6a:** What did Jesus' death on the cross defeat?

**A6:** Jesus' death defeated sin and death.

**Q6b:** Has anyone ever offered you something in exchange for something you knew to be a sin?

**TN:** Students don't have to get too into detail about their experiences, the point is to get them thinking about how this made them feel. Being asked to do something blatantly wrong is insulting. Satan's offer caused Jesus to react so strongly that Satan fled after Jesus rebuked him.



**MEMORY  
VERSE**

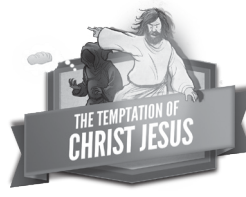
- ▷ **Matthew 4:10:** Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'"

**BIG IDEA**

- ▷ Jesus used the Word of God to reject temptation, and we can do the same thing.

**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

- ▷ Dear God, thank You that Jesus experienced temptation. Thank You for the example His life is for us. Help us to be like Your Son. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



After Jesus was baptized, He went away into the wilderness. He stayed out there for 40 days, fasting, praying, and preparing for the ministry He was about to begin. This wilderness was a barren place; no one lived there or even traveled there. He came to the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Yes, even Jesus was tempted.

### SLIDE 2



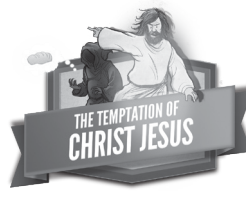
The whole time that Jesus was in the wilderness, He had nothing to eat. For 40 days and 40 nights, He went without a single meal. By this time, Jesus was incredibly hungry.

### SLIDE 3



Satan knew Jesus was hungry. He saw this as a great opportunity to try to get Jesus to break His fast. "If you're really the Son of God, just tell these stones to turn into bread!" he said. He thought he could force Jesus to relinquish trust in God. Jesus did have the power to turn the stones into bread, but that would defeat the purpose of this great lesson. Jesus was focusing on God, not on Himself. Jesus said to Satan, "The Word of God says that man shall not live by bread only, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Satan failed, and Jesus passed His first temptation.





## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 4



Satan was not going to give up that easily. This time, he took Jesus to the highest spot on the temple. Far below was the city of Jerusalem. Jumping from this height would kill a person. Satan looked at Jesus with an evil smirk and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump! Remember, it is written, 'He will command His angels to take care of you.'" Jesus knew that Satan was tempting Him to be foolish and to make light of God's protection. Jesus replied to Satan, "You shall not test the Lord your God." Again, Satan lost. Jesus passed yet another temptation without sinning.

### SLIDE 5



Finally, Satan pulled out his sneakiest temptation yet. He took Jesus to a high mountain from which they could see all the kingdoms of the world. There were millions of people, untold riches, and all the power a person could want. To own this vast empire would be the ultimate glory. It would provide someone with incredible authority. Then Satan said, "I'll give it all to you, Jesus. Everything, it's yours! All you have to do is bow and worship me."

### SLIDE 6



At that instant Jesus rebuked Satan in a strong and powerful voice, "Be gone, Satan! The Scriptures state that you shall worship the Lord God and serve Him only." Immediately, Satan fled from Jesus. His evil plans of temptation had no power over the Son of God. Jesus would remain sinless so He could be the pure and perfect sacrifice that would pay for the sins of all mankind, thereby defeating sin and death. After Jesus' resurrection, God exalted Him to the highest honor and placed everything under His authority.