

# Resist Temptation

Lesson Scripture: Matthew 4:1-10

**Bible Truth:** I can say "no" to temptation.

**Bible Story:** Matthew 4:1-10

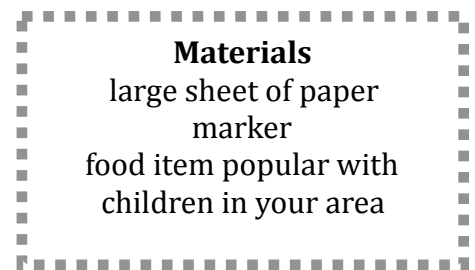
**Bible Verse:** Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" (Matthew 4:10, NIV)

## FOCUS

### Learning Activity: "That's Tempting"

#### Preparation

Write the word "temptation" on a sheet of paper large enough for the children to see it clearly. Gather a food item that the children in your class would like to eat (cake, candy bar, cookies, etc.) Talk to a child before class and ask him to help you with an illustration by eating the food item when you turn your back in class.



#### Presentation

Show children the food item you brought. Make a big deal about how great it would taste or how great it smells. Ask the volunteer you talked to before class to hold the food for you. Turn your back for a moment to allow the child to take a bite of the item. When you turn around, notice that the child has "given in" to temptation.

Show the children the word "temptation." Say: **Do any of you know what this word means?** Pause to allow children to answer. **Temptation is when you have the opportunity to choose to do something that is wrong. You can either choose to say "yes" to temptation, or you can choose to say "no" to temptation. Today, (insert volunteer's name) gave us an example of saying "yes" to temptation. Instead of saying "yes" to temptation, Jesus wants us to say "no" to temptation and make the choice to do the right thing. However, sometimes it is really hard to make the right choice when faced with temptation. Today, we are going to learn from Jesus' example how we can say "no" to temptation.** Be sure to thank your volunteer and explain to the class that he didn't really eat the food without permission.

## SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: Matthew 4:10

### Preparation

Write Matthew 4:10 on a poster board.

Write each word of Matthew 4:10 on a separate piece of paper. Remember to include the reference. Hide the papers around the room.

**Materials**  
poster board  
marker  
paper  
tape, clothespins, or paper clips

### Explanation

Read Matthew 4:10 with the children. Say: **Today you are going to hear a story about a time when Jesus was tempted by Satan to worship him instead of God. Instead of saying "yes" to this temptation, Jesus said "no" by quoting a Bible verse to Satan.** Ask a child to underline the part of the verse that Jesus quoted to Satan.

Say: **In this verse, Jesus taught us a great way to say "no" to temptation. When you are faced with the temptation to disobey God's commandments and do something you know will not please Him, think about what the Bible tells you to do. Remembering a Bible verse can help you make the right choice.**

### Memorization Activity

Explain to the children that you have hidden the words to Matthew 4:10 around the room on separate pieces of paper. They should find one word and then attach it to the front of their clothing using tape (or whatever you provide). Once each child is wearing a word, the children should try to arrange themselves in correct verse order.

## INSTRUCT

### Bible Story: "Jesus Is Tempted," Matthew 4:1-11

#### Preparation

Read and study Matthew 4:1-11.

Write each group of questions on a separate index card:

#### Group 1

How many days was Jesus in the desert?

Why do you think He went to the desert?

During those forty days, Jesus didn't eat. Why did He choose not to eat?

**Materials**  
Bible  
index cards or paper  
pencils  
pictures of the Bible story (You can find them online, in a picture Bible, or draw them yourself.)

Group 2

After the forty days, who went to Jesus in the desert?

Mention the first way Satan tried to make Jesus sin.

Why was that a difficult temptation for Jesus?

How did Jesus overcome the temptation?

Group 3

Why did Satan ask Jesus to jump off the temple?

The second time Satan tempted Jesus, Satan also quoted a Bible verse. How was Satan's use of scripture different from Jesus' use of scripture?

Group 4

How did Satan tempt Jesus a third time?

What happened after Jesus said: "Away from me Satan"?

What weapon did Jesus use each time Satan tempted Him? Why?

Why do you think God allowed His Son Jesus to be tempted?

## **Presentation**

Divide the children into four teams of listeners. Give each team a prepared card with questions and let them read over the questions together for a few moments. Instruct each team to listen for the answers to their questions during the story. If the members in a team hear the answer to one of their questions, they shouldn't say it out loud. The questions can only be answered during discussion time after the Bible story. If one of the teams can't answer all their questions, the opportunity will be given to the other teams to answer those questions.

Tell the children the following story using the picture visuals you have prepared.

Say: **Jesus had been living in the desert for forty days. He hadn't eaten anything and was weak and very hungry when Satan approached Him. "Jesus, if you are truly the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into bread."**

**Although Jesus was very hungry and had the power to turn the stones into bread, He didn't obey Satan's command. He responded to the enemy with the Word of God. He said, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"**

**When this temptation failed, Satan tried a different one. He took Jesus to the temple. "If you want people to believe that you are truly the Son of God, you should show them a great sign. Throw yourself from the temple. God said in His Word that His angels will protect you from all harm."**

Jesus did want people to believe that He was the Son of God, but obeying Satan was definitely not the way to show that He was God's Son. "Satan," He answered, "It is also written that you will not test the Lord your God." Once again, Satan failed at tempting Jesus.

Satan tried one last time. From a high mountain he showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. "All these kingdoms are mine. I can give them away to any person I choose. I will give them to you if you worship me."

Jesus spoke with power, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

Satan failed. Jesus chose to serve God, His Father. And immediately angels came to take care of Jesus.

Once the story is finished, give each group a moment to discuss the answers to their questions. When they are finished with discussion, have them share their answers. If they don't know an answer, allow the other teams to help.

## **APPLICATION**

### **Learning Activity: Bible Study, "Help! I'm Being Tempted"**

#### **Preparation**

Make five copies of the matching activity "Help! I'm Being Tempted" located at the end of this lesson. If you do not have access to a copy machine, copy the situations and Bible verses on poster board for the children to see.

**Materials**  
pencils  
copies of "Help! I'm Being Tempted" activity

#### **Presentation**

Say: **In Unit One, we learned that it can sometimes be hard to obey God. We discussed different situations in which children faced the temptation to disobey God's instructions. We are going to look at those situations again and find Bible verses that could help each child say "no" to temptation.**

Divide the children into five groups. Give each group a copy of the "Help! I'm Being Tempted" activity. Ask each group to match the temptation with the Bible verse that could help in that situation. When each group is finished, have them share their verses.

## MINISTRY TIME

### Preparation

None

**Materials**  
Bible

### Presentation

Ask children to hold a Bible in their hands. If you do not have a Bible for each child, they can stand in a circle around one Bible. Explain that to be able to use God's Word to say "no" to temptation, we need to read it. Pray with the children that they will spend time during the next week reading their Bibles. You might consider sending home a simple Bible reading schedule to help them. If Bibles are not available for each child in your area, give children a new scripture each week written on a piece of paper that they can commit to memory.

## OPTIONAL REVIEW ACTIVITY

### Learning Activity: Art, "Chronological Line of Jesus' Temptation"

#### Preparation

Write each of the following titles and accompanying scripture references on 5 index cards or pieces of paper:

**Materials**  
paper  
pencils  
crayons or markers

"Jesus went to the desert"                      Matthew 4:1, 2

"Turn the stones into bread"                      Matthew 4:3, 4

"Throw yourself from the temple"                      Matthew 4:5-7

"You can rule these kingdoms"                      Matthew 4:8-10

"The angels took care of Jesus"                      Matthew 4:11

#### Presentation

Allow the children to work with a partner or in small groups to draw one of the scenes depicted on the index cards. (Be sure every scene is drawn.) Instruct them to read the Scripture verses and to work together in drawing the scene. When the children finish, ask them to hang the story scenes on the wall in the correct order.

# Help! I'm Being Tempted!

Each of the situations below lists a temptation you may face one day. Match the temptation with the Bible verse you could remember to help resist the temptation.

1. Your mom asks you to turn off the television and go clean your room.
  2. Your dad has given you 10 minutes to read before bed. You know you should read your Bible, but you really want to finish reading a story in another book.
  3. Your little brother just wrote all over your math homework with a black marker, and now you have to re-do it. Your parents remind you that God wants you to forgive him.
  4. You are spending the night at a friend's house. Your friend wants you to watch a movie you know your parents have said you are not allowed to watch.
  5. You received money as a birthday present. You know the Bible teaches you to give ten percent of the money back to God as a tithe.
- A. Psalm 101:3a, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes..."
  - B. Colossians 3:13, "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
  - C. Ephesians 6:1, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."
  - D. Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."
  - E. Psalm 119:11, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."