

DISCOVERING GOD'S TREASURE: WHO I AM IN CHRIST

Lesson 8

Large Group Lesson Plan | All Ages



LESSON 8: Strong Against Temptation

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>Jesus Is Tempted <i>Matthew 4:1-11</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Bible• A loaf of sliced bread• A paper plate• A long rope, string or stick• Crumpled up balls of paper, one or two per student• Two baskets, trash bins or boxes• Masking tape
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“[Jesus] understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.”</p> <p><i>Hebrews 4:15-16, NLT</i></p>	
<p> Identity Who God Says I Am</p> <p>Jesus can make me strong against temptation.</p>	

Large Group Lesson 15 Minutes

To get everyone's attention, ask loudly, **"Who Is Jesus?"**

- **Jesus is the Son of God.**
 - Point one finger to the sky.
- **Jesus came from heaven to earth.**
 - Point two fingers to the sky, and then slowly bring them down to your sides to make a giant circle.
- **He lived a perfect life.**
 - Give two thumbs up.
- **He died on the cross to pay for our sin.**
 - Hold both arms out horizontally, forming a cross.
- **His body was buried in the ground.**
 - Hold up both arms high above your head, and then bending low, bring your arms down to hold your knees.
- **Three days later, he rose from the dead victorious!**
 - Hold up the number three. Use both hands and slowly lift them up, and then wave both hands above your head in celebration.
- **He is in heaven now preparing a place for you and me! Preparing a place for you and me!**
 - Point one finger toward heaven. Then, with two fists, tap one fist on top of the other fist twice, and then switch the fist that is on top and do it again. You will do this repetition twice.
- **Right now he sits on a throne in heavenly places.**
 - Tap your wrist like a watch. Then pretend to sit down while standing.
- **There he prays to the Father for each and every one,**
 - Make praying hands. Then, with those praying hands, gesture toward others around you.
- **...and sends the Holy Spirit to all God's children.**
 - Slide one hand across the palm of the other away from your body.
- **One day he will come again as the eternal king**
 - Hold up the number one. Then make a crown with your hands atop your head.
- **...and he will turn every wrong thing, right!**
 - Turn around in a circle once with two thumbs down, and when you finish, give two thumbs up.

Today we're going to hear a story about a time when Jesus had gone without food and was tempted to do the wrong thing by the devil. Who is the devil? What is fasting? Let's see how Jesus responds.

After hearing Father God publicly declare that Jesus was his dearly loved son at his baptism, Jesus was led by God's Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights Jesus fasted, which means he didn't eat

anything during that time, and he became very hungry. What happens to you when you are hungry?

Take student responses.

That's how Jesus felt! And while Jesus felt weakest in his physical body, that's when Satan, God's enemy, came to tempt Jesus to do the wrong thing and disobey God and to doubt the truth that Jesus was indeed God's dearly loved son!

Temptation One: Stones Into Bread

The devil came and said to Jesus, "If you are truly the Son of God...tell these stones to become loaves of bread!"

Materials needed:

- Crumpled up balls of paper, one or two per student
- Two baskets, trash bins or boxes
- A loaf of sliced bread
- A paper plate

Divide students into two teams and have them line up relay style. Place a basket, trash bin or box (your goal) several feet away from each team's line, at an appropriate throwing distance for your age level. In between the two goals, place a paper plate with a stack of bread slices on it.

Place an equal number of crumpled up paper balls (approximately one to two per student) representing "stones," next to each team. On the signal "go," the first player from each team should try to throw a "stone" into the goal. They should keep trying until they are successful. Once they make a goal, they should run to pick up a slice of bread and bring it back to their team. The team with the most slices of bread when the bread runs out wins.

How do you think Jesus responded to Satan? Did Jesus turn stones into bread? Would he be able to?

Take student responses.

Jesus knew it was wrong to listen and obey Satan, God's enemy, and it was better to be hungry and wait for God to provide than to sin and obey Satan. Jesus faced this temptation and didn't sin. Jesus told Satan, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

After we eat a meal, we are no longer hungry but satisfied. Jesus shows us that dearly loved sons and daughters can find satisfaction in the word of God, in who God says he is. In this situation, Jesus trusted that God is a provider for all his needs and his response to Satan shows us this was true!

Satan couldn't get Jesus to sin, so he tried something else. Satan took Jesus to the

holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, “If you are truly the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands, so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’”

Temptation Two: Jump and Live!

Materials: masking tape

Use masking tape to draw five lines on the floor, about one foot apart each. Do this again, and divide students into two teams to play a jumping relay.

Game 1: Have students keep their feet together and hop, skipping over the lines without touching them.

Game 2: Have students jump on one foot to the end of the lines, and on the other foot back.

Game 3: Have students jump, only touching the lines.

Game 4: See how far each student can jump. Compete with one student from each team and give a point to the team that jumps the farthest. Repeat with every player.

Satan asks Jesus to prove that what God says is true. But that’s not trust, and Satan forgot to mention that God protects those who put their trust in him! Good thing Jesus knows God’s Word through and through, because he responded to Satan and said, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Satan tried again once more. He took Jesus to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. “I will give it all to you,” he said, “If you will only kneel down and worship me.”

Temptation Three: Bow Down And Win It All!

Materials: A long rope, string or stick

Ask two adult volunteers to hold an end of the rope, string or stick and ask everyone to line up behind them. Have the two adult leaders holding the limbo stick start the game by holding the stick about 4 feet from the ground. Everyone in line must then go under the stick by walking forward and bending backward under the stick to avoid touching it. Make sure to strongly emphasize the rule that they must bend backward! If someone touches the stick or rope they are out. Once everyone has had a turn going under the limbo stick start again by lowering the stick about 6 inches. Continue lowering the stick each round. Then, as the game gets more difficult and only a few players remain, ask an additional leader to pretend to be Satan and tell the remaining players, “It’s okay! Bow down and get on your knees, and go under! Then you’ll be guaranteed to win!” (Make sure the adult leader models what bowing down looks like.) See who continues to follow the rules, you will use this as a talking point. The last player remaining who does NOT bow down and

bend forward under the stick or rope wins!

Satan wanted Jesus to worship and serve him. Satan was also offering Jesus an easy way out. God already had a plan for Jesus to receive all that Satan was offering him, but it would require Jesus to suffer and die on a cross. It was not the easy way, but it was God's way.

“Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’” Then Satan went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Jesus resisted every temptation and he did not sin. He wants to give you and me his strength to overcome any temptation that comes our way. We'll talk about this more in small groups.

Give directions and dismiss students to their small groups.