

TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Scripture:
Matthew 4:1-11

Materials Needed: cookies, candy bar,
potato chips, old moldy carrots

Memory Verse: *Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

OR Matthew 4:4 It is written: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—Jesus, alone and hungry, faced temptation and resisted Satan by relying on the Word of God and Satan left him. Afterwards, angels brought him food.

To Realize— When one is alone and tempted, they can resist Satan by relying on the Word of God and Satan will leave them.

To Respond by—using the Word of God to resist Satan's temptations.

Setting up the Story:

On a table set up in the room, have a candy bar, a plate of cookies and a bowl of potato chips set out. On the side, have some old, wilted carrots (or some other vegetable). Have another teacher call you out of the room for a couple minutes, or make an excuse to leave the room for a couple minutes. When you come back, look at the table and say with surprise, "Who took one of my carrots?! I'm sure one of them is missing!" (The students will look at you as if you are crazy, because no one would take a carrot!) Then ask, "OK, if you didn't take a carrot, was there anyone here who took something else from up here?" (You may get looks and grins at this point if someone really did take some of the food—the purpose is not to find out if or who took something, but to find out if they were tempted to do it.)

Today I want us to look at temptation, because every single one of us will face temptation. But we have to know some important things about temptation—

1. Temptation grows stronger when the fulfillment is present. If you had had to go down to the lunch room, would you have been tempted when I stepped out of the room? The temptation was greater, because the food was right here!
2. Temptation grows stronger when it looks like no one will find out. Why didn't anyone take the candy bar? What was the most tempting item? Probably the chips. Why? (least noticeable)
3. Temptation makes the benefits look greater than the consequences.
4. Temptation appeals to natural needs and desires. No one was tempted by these old, ugly carrots. Why not? They look gross! If I don't want it, it's not tempting.

The truth about temptation is that it is not a question IF we will be tempted, but WHEN we will be tempted.

Let's define temptation as wanting something so badly you will do wrong to get it.

Scripture **Telling the story:**
4:1-2 I. Jesus is Alone and Hungry

As you tell the story:
| Notice, Jesus has just been

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. After baptism B. Led by the Spirit C. Into wilderness D. Fasted 40 days/nights 	<p>baptized and the Spirit leads him into the wilderness. The Spirit is not tempting Jesus—but Jesus is exactly where he is supposed to be. But notice this: He is alone, the temptation appeals to his need for food, it is right there, and who will find out?! How strong would you say the temptation is?</p>
4:3-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> II. Jesus Faces Three Temptations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Temptation one <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “If you are the Son of God...” 2. Stones to bread 3. “It is written” 4. Man does not live on bread alone B. Temptation two <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “If you are the Son of God...” 2. Throw yourself down from temple. It is written. 3. “It is written” 4. Do not put God to the test C. Temptation three <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kingdoms of world I will give; bow down to me 2. Away from me! 3. “It is written” 4. Worship God only 	<p>Fill in the chart and have students read the different temptations and Jesus’ response in each one.</p>	
4:11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> III. Satan leaves Jesus IV. Angels came and attended to Jesus 	<p>Now what happens? Satan leaves! And...Jesus gets what he needs! He doesn’t get it when he could have gotten it. But because He waits for God’s timing, God provides for him!</p>	

Concluding the Story:

I want us to answer two important questions about temptation. The first one is, "Why should we say 'no' to temptation?"

Because sin destroys our relationship with God.

Sin destroys our relationship with others.

Sin destroys us.

"How can we say 'no' to temptation?"

Realize that God wants it and even requires it.

Believe that God has something better.

Choose to live by God's truth.

Board work and student notes:

Jesus' Temptation
Matthew 4



Temptation:
Wanting something so badly, one will do wrong to get it.

- Gets stronger when no one is around
- Gets stronger when you think you won't get caught
- Gets stronger when you have access to a thing
- Looks like the benefits are greater than the consequences

Temptation	Difficulty	Advantage	Action
	Use own strength for food.	He wouldn't be hungry.	"Man doesn't live by bread alone."
	Chance to prove himself to world.	He would become instantly popular.	"Do not put God to the test."
	Get the nations without the cross.	NOW: no death on the cross.	"Worship God; serve Him only."