



# Matthew/Mark/Luke

## Jesus' Temptation

**Lesson Objective:** Jesus lived a sinless life.

**Arrival** *Say What?*

Supplies: index cards, paper, markers or colored pencils

Before the session, write common English idioms on each index card. Instruct kids to read the phrase on their cards and then use their supplies illustrate its literal meaning. For example, “missed the boat” means “it’s too late” but might be illustrated as someone standing on shore as a boat pulls away.

**Connect To activity to the lesson:**

Have you ever heard a phrase used in a way it wasn’t intended to be used? Saying someone spilled the beans usually doesn’t mean he literally spilled beans; it means he told a secret. In today’s Bible story, we’ll see one way someone tried to use God’s words in a way they weren’t meant to be used.

**WORSHIP (15 min.)** Choose 2-3 songs to worship together as a family.

**Prayers:** How can I pray for you?

**Introduction:**

Satan wants to ruin God’s plan. In Genesis 3, he tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God. Sin entered the world, and the perfect relationship between God and man was broken. But all along, God had a plan to rescue His people through His Son. When Jesus came to earth, Satan still didn’t back down. After Jesus was baptized—beginning His ministry and effectively declaring war on Satan—Satan tempted Jesus. If Satan could get Jesus to stray from God’s perfect plan—if Jesus sinned—then Jesus wouldn’t be the sinless Savior people needed. But Satan could not ruin God’s plan.

**VIDEO: (4 min.) - “Jesus’ Temptation” – (Video Transcript)**

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus did not eat for 40 days and 40 nights. He prayed and reflected on God’s plan for His life. When those days were over, Jesus was hungry. Then the devil came and tempted Jesus. He said, “If You are really God’s Son, prove it. Tell these stones to become bread.” If Jesus used His power to turn the stones into bread, He could eat them so He wouldn’t be hungry anymore. But Jesus refused. Instead of using His own power, Jesus chose to trust God to meet His needs. Jesus said, “God’s Word says that man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” The devil tempted Jesus again. He took Jesus to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and said, “If You are really God’s Son, prove it. Jump off this temple and trust God to protect You.” The devil even said: “God’s Word says that God will order His angels to keep You safe, and they will protect You so that You will not even strike your foot against a stone.”

The devil used words from Scripture, but Jesus knew Satan’s command was foolish. Jesus reminded him, “God’s Word also says, do not test the Lord your God.” Finally, the devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him all the great kingdoms of the world. The devil said, “I will give You all the riches and power of these kingdoms. They belong to me, and I can give them to anyone I want. If You want them, all You have to do is fall down and worship me.”

Jesus resisted temptation again. He replied, “Go away, Satan! God’s Word says: Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.” The devil left Jesus, and angels came right away to serve Jesus. Throughout all these temptations, Jesus never sinned.

*Christ Connection: Jesus was tempted, but He trusted God and never sinned. Jesus is perfect and righteous. A perfect sacrifice was required to take away sin. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. He died on the cross to free us from sin and to give us the power to say no to temptation.*

**Read - Matthew 4, Mark 1, Luke 4**

**Debrief: Questions to ask**

**Who tempts us to sin? Why?** *(The devil tempted Jesus to sin. God never tempts anyone to sin. The Bible says the devil is “the father of lies” (John 8:44) and he is against everything that God loves. He tempts us to sin because He does not want us to follow Jesus.)*

**How can we resist temptation? What should we do if we give in to temptation?** *(Jesus resisted temptation by remembering the truth found in Scripture. Memorizing Scripture and praying against the schemes of the devil will help guard our hearts against the devil’s schemes. When we are tempted, God provides a way to resist it. When we do sin, we can repent and turn back to God. He will forgive our sins.)*

**How does Jesus free us from sin?** *(The Bible says that before we trust in Jesus, we are slaves to sin. Sin has power over us. Jesus came to be the perfect sacrifice required to take away sin. He died on the cross and rose again to free us from sin and to give us the power to say ‘no’ to temptation.)*

**Apply the Story**

Jesus is the perfect sacrifice required to take away sin. Where Adam failed, Jesus succeeded. Adam brought guilt and death to the human race, but Jesus brings forgiveness and life to all who trust in Him. Even today, the devil works hard “to steal and kill and destroy” (John 10:10). The power to resist temptation comes from Jesus. Following Jesus won’t mean sin and temptation will not be present in our lives. Jesus is our greatest treasure—more valuable than any instant gratification the world has to offer. Jesus is our hope for when we fail. His perfect obedience is credited to those who trust in Him. The Bible says “if we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9). We can boldly approach God’s throne to receive both grace and mercy when we need it. (Heb. 4:14-16.)

**Momentum Moment** *Practice Resisting!* (Supplies -index cards and pencil)

Beforehand, write out temptation scenarios on index cards. IF you can, form groups of two. Give each group a temptation scenario card, and give groups a couple of minutes to plan how they will act out the scenario. Call on groups one at a time to act out their scenario. Before the scene resolves, direct the actors to freeze. Lead the groups to discuss a right and wrong response. Then let kids act out the response showing a person resisting temptation. Repeat for each scenario.

Ask why Jesus became human (*Jesus became human to obey His Father’s plan and rescue sinners*). When Jesus came to earth, He experienced temptation just like we do. Jesus was tempted and never sinned. Satan tempts us to sin, too. The Bible says that when we resist the devil, he will go away. [See James 4:7.] We can turn to God for help to say no to sin. God gives us power through the Holy Spirit to resist temptation.

**Close in with a prayer:** Let each person take a moment to say a one sentence prayer.