



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 20: Jesus is Tempted

Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11
 Mark 1:12-13
 Luke 4:1-13

Memory Verse

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
 Psalm 119:11 (NIV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that Jesus was tempted in every way that we are.

Understand that Jesus didn't sin.

Understand that memorizing Scripture can keep us from sinning.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

When Jesus returned from the Jordan River, after being baptized by John the Baptist, He was full of the Holy Spirit. Immediately after that, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. The devil tempted Him there for 40 days. In fact, that is why the Spirit led Jesus there. During that time, Jesus fasted; He did not eat anything the whole time He was in the desert. Fasting is a way to deny your physical desire for food. It is usually done along with a time of prayer to God.

The devil, the tempter, came to Jesus and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." (Matthew 4:3 NIV) Remember, Jesus was fasting. Jesus must have been hungry. Instead of following the temptation and choosing to sin, Jesus answered the devil with God's word. He said, "It is written, 'Man doesn't live only by bread. He also lives on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Deuteronomy 8:3)" (Matthew 4:4 NIV)

The devil didn't stop there. He took Jesus to Jerusalem. "He had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. It is written, "The Lord will command His angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won't trip over a stone.'" (Psalm 91:11, 12)" (Luke 4:9b-11 NIV) Jesus resisted the temptation again and answered, "Scripture says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Deuteronomy 6:16)" (Luke 4:12 NIV)

"Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory." (Matthew 4:8 NIV) The devil told Jesus that if He bowed down and worshipped him, it would all be His. Jesus knew better; He knows what God is like. "Jesus said to him, 'Get away from me, Satan! It is written, "Worship the Lord your God. He is the only One you should serve.'" - (Deuteronomy 6:13)" (Matthew 4:10 NIV)

"When the devil finished all this tempting, he left Jesus until a better time." (Luke 4:13 NIV) Angels came. They took care of Him.

Remember, the devil's tempting lasted 40 days! Can you imagine? How was Jesus able to resist it? Well, you may say it was easy for Him because He is God. (John 1:1) He is God, but Jesus was also human, with all the limitations of a human body. The Bible tells us that He "was tempted in every way that we are. But He did not sin!" (Hebrews 4:15b CEV) Jesus was determined to obey God, His Father. Jesus also knew God's word, the Bible, and answered every temptation from this liar, the devil, with that truth.

Let's look a little closer at each of the characters in our lesson. It's important to know who we are dealing with. Let's begin with Jesus. He was led into the desert by the Holy Spirit. The Bible even tells us that Jesus was full

Application

How about you?
How can you resist
temptation?

You will never go wrong if you follow Jesus' example. What did Jesus do when faced with temptation? He desired to obey God and He knew God's word and used it.

Do you want to do what is right? Do you want to obey God? That is the first step. Decide in your heart today that pleasing God is more important to you than anything.

Do you know God's word? Are you memorizing Scripture? Our memory verse says, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11 NIV)

Knowing God's word can keep you out of trouble!

of the Holy Spirit. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are part of the trinity of God. There is God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. The following words are used in the Bible to describe Jesus: light, truth, and life. The devil, on the other hand, is described as a liar, and the father of lies. He is a murderer. (John 8:44)

With that in mind, let's also look at each of the devil's temptations as well as Jesus' response. The first temptation had to do with the physical hunger that Jesus felt. What do you do when you need something? Do you take what belongs to someone else? Do you worry? How did Jesus respond? He responded by saying that wanting our physical needs met isn't all there is to life. Our spiritual needs are more important. We should be "hungry" for the Word of God. Jesus also knew that God can supply all of our needs out of His riches. (Philippians 4:19)

The second temptation had to do with testing God. The devil dared Jesus to jump off the highest point of the temple. Surely the angels would take care of Him! Jesus answered Satan by saying that God is not to be put to the test or tempted. To put God to the test means that you refuse to believe Him or His Word until He has shown His power, for example, through signs or miracles.* What God desires from us is faith. Faith is belief that shows itself in trust. God is trustworthy.

The third, and final, temptation had to do with personal gain (power and ambition). The devil promised Jesus authority over the nations of the world, all for worshipping him. Jesus response: Only God is to be worshipped and served. Who or what do you worship? What is it that you want the most in this life? Are you willing to let God direct your path? (Proverbs 3:5-6) Can you say with King David that you would rather be God's butler (doorkeeper) than to live in a big, fancy house with wicked people? (Psalm 84:10)

It is important to realize "Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because He was tempted in every way that we are. But He did not sin!" (Hebrews 4:15 CEV) It is also important to realize that, like Jesus, you have an enemy. 1 Peter 5:8 says, "Control yourselves. Be on your guard. Your enemy the devil is like a roaring lion. He prowls around looking for someone to chew up and swallow." We read in the book of James (4:7-8) that we are to resist, or say "no" to the devil. When we do, he runs away. Run to Jesus when you are tempted. Come close to God. When you do, He will come close to you.

* Zodhiates, Spiros, TH.D. The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament. 1992. Chattanooga, TN. p. 551.

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus Calls Four Disciples



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a calendar.

Jesus came back from the Jordan River. This was after John the Baptist baptized Him. Immediately after that, God's Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. Jesus was in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights. (Look at a calendar and count 40 days.) Jesus didn't eat during those 40 days and 40 nights either. The devil tempted Jesus in the desert.

The devil came to Jesus and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." (Matthew 4:3 NIV) Remember, Jesus was not eating. Jesus must have been hungry. Jesus didn't listen to the devil, though. He answered the devil with a verse from the Bible, God's word. He said, "It is written, 'Man doesn't live only by bread. He also lives on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4 NIV) Jesus was saying that knowing God's Word is more important than worrying about what we are going to eat next.

The devil didn't stop there. He took Jesus to the top of a tall building. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here." (Luke 4:9b-11 NIV) God will tell the angels to take care of you. Jesus resisted the temptation again and said, "Scripture says, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Luke 4:12 NIV) Jesus was saying that we should believe in God without having to see miracles.

"Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory." (Matthew 4:8 NIV) The devil told Jesus that if He bowed down and worshipped him, it would all be His. Jesus knew better; He knows what God is like. "Jesus said to him, 'Get away from me, Satan! It is written, "Worship the Lord your God. He is the only One you should serve."'" (Matthew 4:10 NIV) Jesus was saying that we shouldn't want to be the most important. When we do that we serve ourselves. Only God deserves to be worshipped. We should serve Him.

"When the devil finished all this tempting, he left Jesus until a better time." (Luke 4:13 NIV) Angels came. They took care of Jesus.



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Write the memory verse, one word at a time, on small rocks. Hide the rocks all over your Bible study area. Encourage your students to find the rocks and put the verse in order. Practice the verse together.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring heart shaped candy for the snack. Review the memory verse and talk about what it means to hide God's Word in your heart.
- Print the memory verse on heart shaped construction paper. Punch holes around the edge of each heart and string yarn through the holes.
- Create a chart on a white board or on poster board. Write the following headings across the top: Temptation 1, Temptation 2, Temptation 3. Review the lesson with your students and clarify which temptation is which. Then assign the following verses to various students, asking them to read the verses and decide which temptation they apply to. (For Temptation 1-Matthew 6:8, 25-33; Philippians 4:19 / Temptation 2-John 13:12-17; Galatians 5:13 / Temptation 3-Hebrews 11:1-6 ; John 20:24-29)
- Sing "Better is One Day," "The B-I-B-L-E," "Trust and Obey," or another song related to the lesson.
- Find the region of Judea on a map of Israel. Find Jerusalem. Then look for desert areas outside of Jerusalem.
- Dig Deeper: Talk about fasting and praying. Note that it is assumed we will fast, "When you fast," not "if you fast." Read Matthew 6:5-18.
- Dig Deeper: Read Galatians 5:16 from several different translations. Discuss the verse.

I have hidden
YOUR WORD
in **my heart** that
I might not sin
against You.

Psalm 119:11

Trace the letters.

THE BIBLE

is

GOD'S WORD.

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?



Word Search

W Y O U R W O R D O Y O Y Y O
O U R D D R O W R U O Y O O Y
R O D R O W R U O Y U O U U O
D R O W R U O Y W O R U R R U
Y O U R W O R D R U W R W D R
D R O W R U O Y U O O W O R D
R D D R O W R U O Y R O R O R
O R D R U O Y O Y Y D R D W O
W O R U Y O U R W O R D U R W
R W O O D R O W R U O Y O U R
U R W Y O U R W O R D O Y O U
O U R L H U D R O W R U O Y O
Y O U R W O R D R O W R U O Y
O Y O Y O U R W O R D W R U O
U O Y O U R W O R D R O W R U

How many times can you find the phrase “Your word” in the puzzle above?

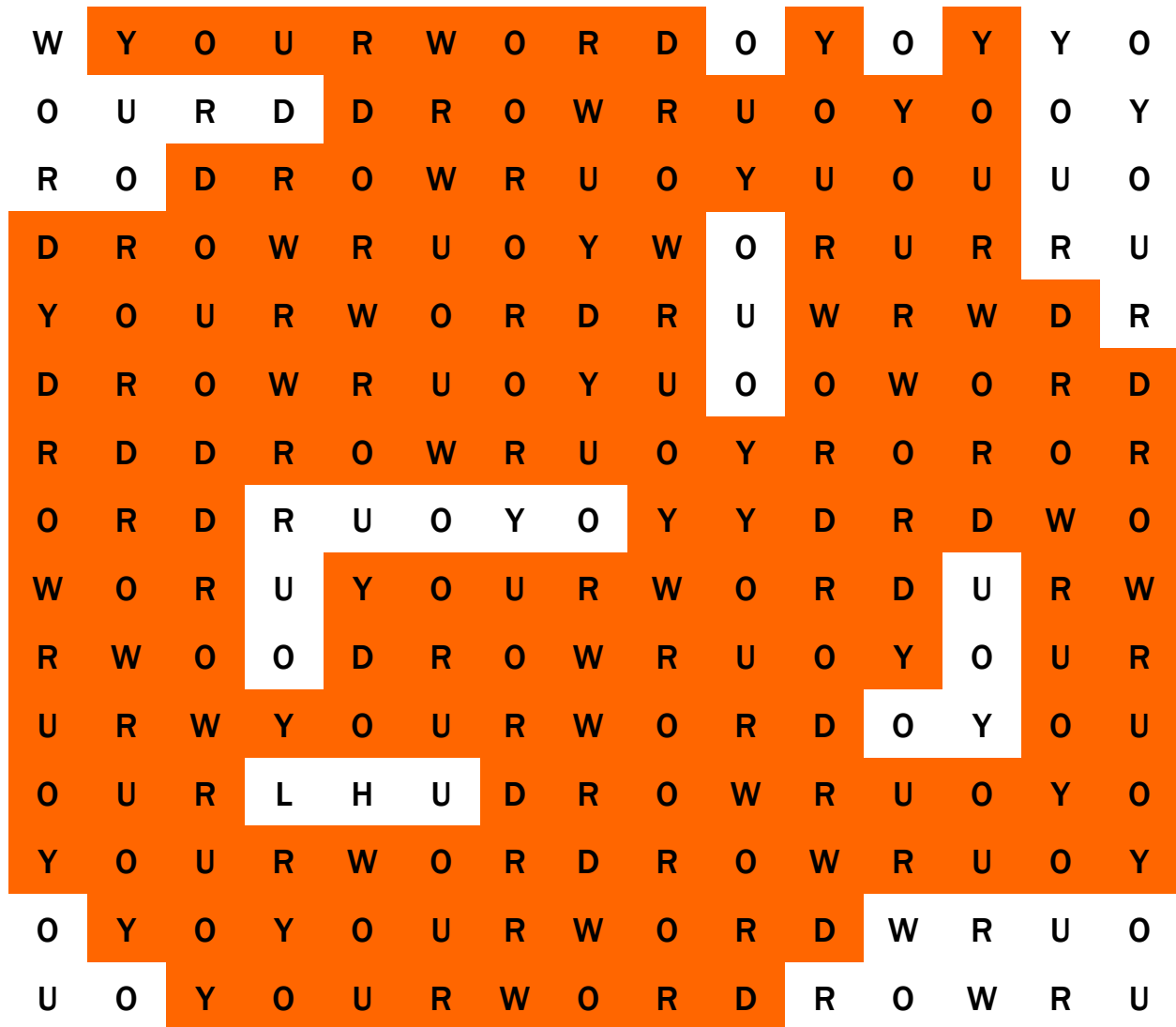
(Hint: The phrase “Your word” is repeated 25 times in the puzzle.)

I have hidden **Your word** in my heart
that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 119:11



Word Search



How many times can you find the phrase “Your word” in the puzzle above?

(Hint: The phrase “Your word” is repeated 25 times in the puzzle.)

I have hidden **Your word** in my heart
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Preschool Word Search

R F I M Y S O N D R E D
I T J E S U S R N E E D
H A R I G U M A U Y T S
R I V F O R T Y D A Y S
J L A O L I V F N Y L S
G O D S W O R D Z E E O
R T O R E I V E N M R E
H D E V I L H I R S U S
M D I L E D E S E R T S
D I E M S T I T O R B N
L A K I N G G O S E Y J
P E T E M P T E D N L N

JESUS

DESERT

FORTY DAYS

DEVIL

TEMPTED

GOD'S WORD



Preschool Word Search

R F I M Y S O N D R E D
I T **J E S U S** R N E E D
H A R I G U M A U Y T S
R I V **F O R T Y D A Y S**
J L A O L I V F N Y L S
G O D S W O R D Z E E O
R T O R E I V E N M R E
H **D E V I L** H I R S U S
M D I L E **D E S E R T** S
D I E M S T I T O R B N
L A K I N G G O S E Y J
P E **T E M P T E D** N L N

JESUS

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