Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Is Tempted

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God's Word helps me say no.
Bible passage: Matthew 4:1–11. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart" *Psalm 119:11 (KJV)*. The old words mean: I keep God's Word inside me.
You need: a Bible, about 20 gray paper circles or crumpled gray paper balls (the "stones"), a basket, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 4. Scatter the paper stones around the room.

1. Opening game: Stones in the Wilderness (5 minutes)

Say: "Our room is a wilderness, a dry place full of rocks!" Kids pick up the paper stones and put them in the basket. Count them together. Hold one up and ask: "Can we eat a stone?" (No!) Say: "Today we will hear a true story. Jesus was very hungry, and someone told Him to turn stones into bread."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 4. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus went into the wilderness, a dry place with rocks (Matthew 4:1). *(Walk in place.)*
Jesus did not eat for forty days and forty nights (4:2). *(Shake your head no.)*
Jesus was very hungry (4:2). *(Rub your tummy.)*
The devil said, "Make these stones into bread" (4:3). *(Hold up a paper stone.)*
Jesus said no! He said, "It is written," and He said God's Word (4:4). *(Open your hands like a book.)*
Say it with me: "It is written!"
The devil took Jesus up high on the temple (4:5). *(Reach up high.)*
He said, "Jump down!" (4:6). Jesus said no! "It is written" (4:7). *(Shake your head no.)*
Say it with me: "It is written!"
The devil showed Jesus a big, big world (4:8). *(Spread your arms wide.)*
He said, "Worship me" (4:9). Jesus said no! "Worship God, only God" (4:10). *(Point up.)*
Say it with me: "It is written!"
The devil went away (4:11). *(Wave bye-bye.)*
Angels came and took care of Jesus (4:11). *(Hug yourself.)*
Say it with me: "God's Word helps me say no!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Was Jesus hungry? *(Yes, very hungry, Matthew 4:2)*
2. What did Jesus say every time? *("It is written," 4:4, 4:7, 4:10)*
3. Who came to take care of Jesus? *(Angels, 4:11)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "God's Word says, 'Thy word have I hid in mine heart.' That means I keep God's Word inside me." Teach the motion: open your hands like a book for "Thy word," then put both hands on your heart for "hid in mine heart." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Psalm 119:11" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus never did anything wrong. God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: God's Word in My Heart (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big heart and color it red. Then they draw an open Bible inside the heart. Say: "When you want to do something wrong, put your hand on your heart and say, 'No! God's Word helps me say no!'" While they color, ask: "Was Jesus hungry? What did Jesus say every time?"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for Your Word.
Help me say no to wrong things. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and do every motion big. Let every child say "It is written!" in a strong voice. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child is afraid of the devil: answer simply and calmly. Jesus is much stronger. When Jesus said no, the devil had to go away (Matthew 4:11). Jesus takes care of us.

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