Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Is Tempted

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: God's Word helps us say no to sin. Every time Jesus was tempted, He answered, "It is written."
Bible passage: Matthew 4:1–11. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." *Psalm 119:11 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, a big paper heart folded in half and taped on the sides to make a pocket, 5 paper strips, a marker, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 5 paper strips (see part 4). Put bookmarks in your Bible at Matthew 4:1 and Psalm 119:11.

1. Opening game: Stand Firm (5 minutes)

Kids walk slowly around the room. When you call "Stand firm!" everyone freezes like a strong statue. Now try to get them to move without touching anyone: make funny faces, say "Wiggle your nose!" or "Sit down, it's snack time!" Anyone who moves or laughs sits down for the next round. Play three or four rounds. Then ask: *Was it hard to stand firm when someone was trying to make you move?* Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a time someone tried to get Jesus to do wrong three times, and Jesus stood firm every time."

2. Bible story: Jesus Says, "It Is Written" (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 4, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Right after Jesus was baptized, the Spirit of God led Him into the **wilderness**, a dry, empty place with rocks and no towns (Matthew 3:16–4:1). Jesus was there to be **tempted** by the devil. To be tempted means something is trying to get you to do something wrong.

Jesus **fasted** in the wilderness for forty days and forty nights. To fast means to go without food. Afterward Jesus was very hungry (4:2). That is when the tempter came. The tempter is the devil, God's enemy.

The first time: the devil said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread" (4:3). That means, "If You really are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into bread." Jesus was so hungry! But Jesus answered, "It is written," and He said what God's Word says. **Read Matthew 4:4 from your Bible:** "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Say: "That means we need God's Word even more than we need food."

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The story continues: **The second time:** the devil took Jesus into the holy city and set Him on a **pinnacle**, a very high point on top of the temple (4:5). The devil said, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down" (4:6). That means, "Jump down!" The devil even said words from the Bible, that God's angels would catch Him (4:6). But Jesus answered, "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (4:7). That means we must not try to make God prove Himself.

The third time: the devil took Jesus up into a very high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and how great and rich they were (4:8). The devil said, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me" (4:9). But Jesus said, "Get thee hence, Satan," which means "Go away, Satan!" "For it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve" (4:10). We worship only God.

Then the devil left Jesus. And angels came and **ministered** unto Him, which means they took care of Him (4:11). Three times the devil tempted Jesus, and three times Jesus answered with God's Word. Jesus never did one wrong thing. The Bible says Jesus "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. How long did Jesus fast in the wilderness? *(Forty days and forty nights, Matthew 4:2)*
2. What did the devil want Jesus to turn the stones into? *(Bread, 4:3)*
3. What did Jesus say every time before He answered? *("It is written," 4:4, 4:7, 4:10)*
4. Did Jesus ever do what the devil wanted? *(No, never. He was tempted, yet without sin, Hebrews 4:15)*
5. Who came and took care of Jesus after the devil left? *(Angels, Matthew 4:11)*

4. Memory verse: Hide It in Your Heart (5 minutes)

Tape the 5 strips up in order: *Thy word / have I hid / in mine heart, / that I might not sin / against thee. Psalm 119:11.* Explain the old words: **thy word** means Your Word, God's Word, and **hid in mine heart** means I learned it and kept it inside me, so I remember it. Read the verse together. Then take one strip down, fold it, and "hide" it in the paper heart pocket. Read the verse again. Keep hiding one strip each time until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves. Say: "Now the verse is hidden in the heart, and in your heart too!"

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus was tempted, but He never sinned, and He used God's Word to say no. God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus never sinned, and He died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: learn Psalm 119:11 by heart. When you feel like doing something wrong, say "No!" and say what God's Word says, like Jesus did.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **temptation of Jesus word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/temptation-of-jesus-word-search), the **temptation of Jesus maze** (vbshq.com/puzzles/temptation-of-jesus-maze), or the **temptation of Jesus craft**, a wilderness card with three lift-up flaps that show what Jesus answered each time (vbshq.com/crafts/temptation-of-jesus-craft).

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Your Word. Help us learn it and hide it in our hearts, so we can say no to sin like Jesus did. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child is afraid of the devil: answer simply and calmly. Jesus is much stronger than the devil. The devil had to leave when Jesus said, "Get thee hence" (Matthew 4:10–11). The Bible says, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7, KJV). Keep the focus on Jesus and on God's Word, not on the devil.

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