

“You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness.” (Luke 3:22)

Temptation in the Desert – Luke 4:1-13

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: JOURNEY

Temptation is a part of the human experience. The temptation story reminds us of Jesus’ humanity. The way Jesus dealt with temptation can be an example for us.

It is apparent Jesus has been raised in the Jewish faith. All of his responses to his tempter in the wilderness come from Scripture. When tempted to turn stones into bread, Jesus replies with words from Deuteronomy 8:3: *“People don’t live on bread alone.”* When Jesus is tempted with power, offered all the kingdoms of the world, he responds with words based on Deuteronomy 6:13: *“You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.”*

The tempter attempts to beat Jesus at the Scripture game. In tempting Jesus to throw himself off the highest point in the temple, the tempter quotes Psalm 91:11-12. Jesus does not deny these words, but points out that it is also written in Deuteronomy 6:16: *“Don’t test the Lord your God.”*

Are we then to go around quoting Scripture in order to resist temptation? While this might work in some situations, to do so entirely would be missing the point. Jesus had studied Scripture. He had been raised in the faith and was therefore prepared when faced with temptation. He had a solid foundation and understanding upon which to draw. Such a foundation will help the children make wise choices when faced with temptation in their own lives.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Along the journey of life we will all be tempted to do things we shouldn’t do. One of the ways we can follow Jesus’ example is by stopping, breathing, thinking, and then deciding what we should do next. We can remember God’s presence in our breath and remember our values when we think. This week when you are tempted, try to stop, breathe, think, and then decide.

Come Together

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, stone

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4). Place the stone inside the Wonder Box.

- Point to the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4), and invite the children to wonder about what the word *journey* means.
- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we are talking about stories from Jesus' life. Our story today is about Jesus being alone out in the desert wilderness.

- In this curriculum, we recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Temptation in the Desert" (pp. 208–9), from the storybook.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for helping Jesus when he was all alone. Thank you for helping us when we are alone too. Amen.

Temptation in the Desert – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Temptation in the Desert" (Reproducible 7A) for each child.

- Invite the preschoolers to use crayons to color the picture.

SAY: Jesus went to the desert to be alone with God. While he was there, he was tempted. But Jesus stayed true to his faith and values.

Temptation in the Desert – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers

Prepare: Photocopy "Temptation in the Desert" (Reproducible 7B) for each child.

SAY: In today's Bible story, Jesus stays in the desert alone. Help Jesus walk through the desert wilderness. Find a path from the bottom of the page to the top.

- Invite the kids to color the page.

ASK: How did we find a path for Jesus in the desert?

SAY: We will learn more about why Jesus was in the desert in today's Bible story.

Fill in the Blanks – Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bible, Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Fill in the Blanks" (Reproducible 7C) for each child.

- Hand out a copy of "Fill in the Blanks" to each child.

SAY: A summary of today's Bible story appears on the page, but some of the words are missing. Use context clues to put the words at the bottom of the page in the blanks.

- Invite the kids to work together if they wish.
- If the kids get stuck, have them refer to Luke 4:1-13 (CEB).

Candleholder Decorating – All Ages

Supplies: one-inch tissue paper squares, clear plastic cups, Mod Podge, paintbrushes, paper cups or bowls

Prepare Ahead: Before class, pour a bit of Mod Podge into a paper cup for each child.

- Hand one clear plastic cup to each kid in your class.

ASK: What are some different uses for candles?

- Invite the kids to "paint" Mod Podge onto their cups.
- Encourage them to stick on squares of tissue paper to make a stained glass effect.
- Have the kids add a layer of Mod Podge over the tissue paper. Assure them that the Mod Podge will dry clear.

SAY: Candles are something we use to provide light. We use candles in worship, too, to help us remember that God's presence is with us.

- Have the kids set their candle holders aside to dry.

Wonder Time

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Temptation in the Desert" (Reproducible 7F) for each child.

- Invite several readers to take turns reading the story one section at a time.

ASK: What happened to Jesus in today's Bible story?

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you, sitting in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 7 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Wonder Story Mat for Unit 2 (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17). Cut out the three remaining Bible story figures (Class Pack—p. 19), if not done yet.

- Place the Wonder Box on the Unit 2 Wonder Story Mat.
- Show the children the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4).

SAY: The definition for *journey* is to faithfully follow where God leads. We are following Jesus' journey this month as he grows and follows where God leads him.

- Point to the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- Why do you think part of Jesus' journey included being tempted in the desert?
 - When you are having a hard time with wanting to do something you shouldn't, what do you do?
 - Is there a story from the Bible that helps you live the way God wants you to live?
- Place the rock figure (Class Pack—p. 19) on the Wonder Story Mat at Jericho.
 - Open the Wonder Box to reveal the stone.

WONDER: Why do you think we have a stone in our Wonder Box today?

Experience Wonder

Practice Quiet Time

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, battery-operated candle

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Time Alone with God" (Reproducible 7E) for each child.

- Have your class practice a time of quiet.

SAY: We learned that Jesus spent time alone with God in today's Bible story. Jesus didn't talk to anyone while he was alone, but he may have talked to God. Let's play a quick "Quiet Game" to practice being quiet.

- Play a "Quiet Game." The first person to talk, laugh, or make some noise is "out."
Play the game for a few minutes.

SAY: Being quiet can be hard. That's why it's good to practice. We are going to have a time of quiet to end our session today.

- Have an older kid in your class turn on the candle.

ASK: Why are we lighting the candle?

SAY: Candlelight helps us think about God's presence with us. You can focus your attention on your candle as we practice being quiet.

- Invite the kids to stay quiet as they watch the candlelight. If the kids have trouble staying quiet, you might try having them take deep breaths. See if your class can be very quiet for five minutes.
- Hand out copies of Reproducible 7E. Invite older kids to pair with younger kids. Have them look over the sheets and follow the directions on the page.

Examine the Bible Verse

SAY: Our Unit 2 Bible verse is Luke 3:22. Find it in your Bibles.

ASK: Is the Book of Luke in the Old or New Testament? (*New*) Where is Luke located in the New Testament? (*third book*) In what chapter of Luke is our verse located? (*3*) What is the verse number? (*22*)

SAY: Our Bible verse tells us how God felt about Jesus.

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).
Read it together.

Peaceful Place

Supplies: *Leader Guide—p. 114, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, book: "Strega Nona" by Tomie dePaola, sand tray*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy the Unit 2 Faith Word coloring sheet (Leader Guide—p. 114) for each child.*

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items provided.
- Invite the children to trace in the sand with their fingers.

Tip: *All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.*

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Jesus’ Journey Through Scripture

SAY: Spiritual practice is something we do to help us connect to God. This month we are learning about journey, following where God leads us. We are hearing stories about Jesus’ journey. Today he went into the desert wilderness. He was alone, but he was also with God. When he was tempted to do things he knew he shouldn’t, he relied on his faith to help him say no. Jesus stopped, took a deep breath, thought about what he learned from Scripture, and then made the right decision. We can stop, breathe, think, and decide too.

- Guide the children through a spiritual practice:
 - **SAY:** This is a special poem from the Book of Psalms that brings comfort to many people when they need to be reminded that God is always with them. Let’s read it together.
 - Read Psalm 23.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for being with me on my journey. Amen.

- Bless the children before they leave. Touch each child as you say this blessing: “May you feel God’s presence as you journey through the day.”

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids’ Book; Leader Guide—pp. 111, 112*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy Reproducibles 7F–7G for each child. Photocopy “Celebration Chart” (p. 111) and “Family Letter” (p. 112) for any child who does not have these.*

SAY: Let’s take a look at your Take-Home Pages (*Reproducibles 7F–7G*). Ask your family to read the Bible story and participate in this week’s spiritual practice with you. There’s an extra activity for you to do sometime this week.

- Send home a copy of the Take-Home Pages, a copy of the Family Letter, and a copy of the Celebration Chart with each child.

Supplemental Activities

Preschoolers – Prayer Beads

Supplies: chenille stems, chunky beads or pony beads

SAY: Jesus turned to his faith when he had a tough time. Sometimes he turned to Scripture, and sometimes he prayed to God. When we have a tough time, we can do these things too! We're going to make prayer beads to help us pray when we are having a tough time.

- Give each child a chenille stem and invite the child to string ten beads onto it.
- Help the children twist the ends of the chenille stem together. This will make their prayer beads resemble a bracelet.

SAY: I am going to lead us through a prayer using our prayer beads. I will name things we are thankful for. Each time I name something, touch a bead.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for families. Thank you for friends. Thank you for food. Thank you for homes. Thank you for plants. Thank you for animals. Thank you for church. Thank you for the Holy Spirit. Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for always being with us. Amen.

SAY: You can take home your prayer beads and use them to help you pray.

Early Elementary – Prayer Stones

Supplies: two-inch garden stone for each child, paint pens, stickers

SAY: Jesus turned to his faith when he had a tough time. Sometimes he turned to Scripture, and sometimes he prayed to God. When we have a tough time, we can do these things too! We're going to make prayer stones to help us pray when we are having a tough time.

- Give each child a garden stone.
- Encourage them to decorate the stones with paint pens and/or stickers.

SAY: I am going to lead us through a prayer. While we pray, hold your stone in your hand and think about God's love surrounding you.

PRAY: Dear God, sometimes life gets messy and hard, but we know you are always with us. Help us feel how close you are. Help us feel your love. Amen.

SAY: Anytime you feel alone, you can pull out your stone and remember that God is with you.

Older Elementary – Doodle Prayers

Supplies: CEB Bible, paper, colored pencils

SAY: Jesus turned to his faith when he had a tough time. Sometimes he turned to Scripture, and sometimes he prayed to God. When we have a tough time, we can do these things too! We're going to listen to a passage of Scripture. While I read, I invite you to close your eyes and listen. The second time I read the passage, I invite you to doodle what comes up for you. This is called doodle praying.

- Invite the children to close their eyes and take a deep breath. Read Psalm 84:1-4.
- Read Psalm 84:1-4 and encourage the kids to doodle the words or images that come up while they listen. Give them extra time to draw. You might read the passage again.
- Invite the children to share what they drew and wrote with the group, if they would like.

Intergenerational Activity – Make Bread

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, bread-making ingredients and supplies listed on Reproducible 7D, access to an oven, small disposable plates, disposable knives, butter or jam, napkins

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Make Bread" (Reproducible 7D) for every two to three participants. Look over the ingredients and instructions on the sheet. Baking bread might take awhile, so decide if some adults can help from start to finish. Then you may choose to bring your class (and other classes) in for part of the process.

SAY: In today's Bible story, Jesus is tempted to turn the stones in the wilderness into bread! Jesus answers that humans don't live by bread alone, but by the words from God. Let's work together to make some delicious bread.

- Put the participants into small groups of two to three. Make sure each group has at least one adult or a mature youth participant.
- Hand out the copies of Reproducible 7D to each group. Invite the groups to follow along using the directions on the page.
- Be prepared to have the adults you choose keep an eye on the baking bread until it's finished. Bring the participants back together (after class, for example) to try the bread.

SAY: In today's Bible story, Jesus is tempted to turn the stones in the wilderness into bread! Jesus answers that humans don't live by bread alone, but by God's words.