

**Gospel of Luke/ Lesson 8
Jesus Is Tempted**

Luke 4:1-14

For Servants,

- Please review the introduction to the Book of Luke and pick some information to focus on.
- It is advisable to have the children take turns in reading the verses so that they get engaged and pay attention. Upon the servant prep. Servant may elect to summarize some verses into a story instead of reading verse by verse.

MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 4:12

“You Shall not tempt the Lord your God.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A beautifully wrapped gift box or bag containing something worthless like a brick, a rock, a piece of wood, or nothing at all.

A tray of various items (paper clip, eraser, ring, watch, etc.) covered with a large piece of paper or a towel and as many pencils and sheets of paper as the number of children in your class.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

"Guess the Gift" Game

Prepare a beautifully wrapped package or gift bag and display it for your class. Inside the gift bag or box, place something completely worthless like a brick, a rock, a piece of wood, or nothing at all.

Tell your class that the contents of the package are really special, valuable, interesting, expensive, etc., and have the class try to guess the contents.

After a little while, open the package and reveal the worthless contents. Explain to the class that today they are going to learn that this is what Satan does. He offers us something that looks really beautiful. He even lies about the contents, but once the paper is taken off, what he has offered is revealed to be completely worthless. He is a liar through and through.

LESSON TIME!

Lesson Goal:

God's word in our heart keeps us from sinning.

Did you know that Jesus was tempted? His enemy, Satan, came to Him and tempted Him with three different temptations. What do we learn from today's lesson; what to do when we are tempted through Jesus' example. **God's word in our heart keeps us from sinning.**

Before we read about Satan tempting Jesus, let's remember that Jesus is the Son of God. He could have supernaturally put Satan away from Him. He could have zapped him over to the other side of the Earth, but He did not. Jesus also had taken on human flesh and went through this time of tempting to be our example. Watch closely what Jesus did to stand against temptation. He shows us how to stand when we are tempted.

Luke 4:1-2

4 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days, He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

After His baptism, Jesus went off by Himself into the wilderness. He knew that Satan would tempt Him. Notice that God led Him there. Satan never takes Jesus by surprise. Jesus knew He would be tempted but went anyway in order to teach us a valuable lesson.

Do temptations that we face take God by surprise? No! He knows everything that we are facing. We need to be careful not to think that temptations in our lives are more powerful than the Holy Spirit who lives in us. God is never surprised by the temptations that come our way. We can be confident that God will be with us to strength and guide us through those times as we look to Jesus to help us resist the devil.

Next, we see that Jesus stayed in the desert 40 days, fasting the whole time. **What is fasting?** It is when you do not eat any food for a period of time while you concentrate on praying and fellowshiping with God. Our Coptic Church taught us to fast and pray; **ask the kids if they know any of the fasting, we do?** [Advent, lent, the Apostol's fasting, St. Mary's fasting.... etc.]

What feeling do you experience when you do not eat for a while? It says Jesus was hungry. When we get hungry enough, we will do almost anything to get food. We are weak and desperate and vulnerable when we are hungry.

Luke 4:3-4

3 And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

4 But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, [a]but by every word of God.'

Satan often chooses to come to us when we are weakened or vulnerable in some physical way. It may not be hunger. Maybe we are very tired or sick. So, we need to especially be on guard during those times.

Luke 4:5-8

5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. **6** And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. **7** Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

8 And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

2nd Temptation: Authority / Answer is: Word of God

What did Satan use to tempt Jesus? Bread. Satan first tempted Jesus' with physical needs. We each have bodies with needs. When we are physically weak from lack of food, sleep, or health, Satan tries to get us to ignore God and only think about ourselves. He tried to do that to Jesus, but Jesus did exactly what we should do when we are tempted. **He used scripture to shoot down Satan's temptation.** Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3. Jesus is showing us that **God's word in our heart keeps us from sinning.**

Jesus had this verse hidden in His heart and was able to use it to defend against the physical temptation for food that Satan brought. By saying this verse to Satan, Jesus was saying, "Satan, even my desperate hunger will not make me put my will above that of the Father." Living by God's Word is far more important than worrying about what we want or need.

Luke 4:9-12

9 Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. 10 For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' 11 and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' 12 And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not [a]tempt the Lord your God.'

3rd Temptation: Worship / Answer is: Word of God

This is the second temptation Satan tried with Jesus. Now he tempts Jesus' with the desire of eyes, the control and wealth.

Satan thought he could trick Jesus to worship him, he would give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. Yet God is the only one worthy to be worshipped. Everything would go away and perish but God is the only True and is worthy of our worship.

Satan always lies to us. He offers us things if we will only follow his path instead of God's. We have to remember, as Jesus did, that Satan is a liar. He offers us things that appear beautiful and worthwhile but in reality, are dangerous and destructive. His way often seems like a shortcut or the easy way to do something. Here he was saying to Jesus, "Worship me, and you will not have to go to the cross and suffer to gain these kingdoms back. I will give them to you!" It looked like an easy shortcut for Jesus. But Jesus shows us what to do when Satan tempts us and lies to us; **He responds with scripture again. God's word in our heart keeps us from sinning.**

When Satan comes with a temptation, our own thoughts and words and responses are weak, **but the Bible tells us that God's Word is a sword. God's Word will cut up Satan's temptation and reveal it for what it is, a worthless lie. We can stand against Satan's temptations when we stand on the Word of God.**

Hiding God's Word [An extra Activity/ Optional]

Write down this verse on the blackboard, and help the children to memorize it. **"Your Word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You."**

-PS ALM 119:11

Have the children read the verse out loud together? Erase one or two words, and have the children read the verse again, reciting the erased words from memory. Continue to erase the words until they are all gone and the class knows the verse from memory.

Explain to the children how easy Bible memorization can be.

The power of the word of God

Can you see why memorizing Scripture is very important in our struggle with the enemy? We need a strong sword to defend against his temptations. The Bible is that sword. Did you notice that in verse ten Jesus sent Satan away by quoting the Word of God? It says in verse eleven, "Then the devil left Him..." The Word of God tells us that we can send Satan away any time he tries to tempt us. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

Jesus showed us how to resist the devil by hiding God's Word in our hearts. We must memorize the Word of God so we can stand strong on the Word of God when Satan attacks. As we pray and trust in God, He will deliver us from temptation. He will prove Himself faithful, because **God's Word in our heart keeps us from sinning.**

Application Part: Optional: you may do it at the class or ask parents to practice it at

home with kids

God's Word Has the Answer

Have the children tell different temptations that come to mind (examples: getting angry with siblings, cheating on a test, disobeying parents, etc).

Look up Scripture verses that deal with each specific temptation (you may want to pre-prepare the verses, anticipating the various temptations your class may come up with).

Do several, if time permits, and have the class get involved with looking up the verses.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer asking God to help them "hide" His Word in their hearts and keep them from sin.

Videos: