



UNIT 19 | SESSION 4

## JESUS WAS TEMPTED

MATTHEW 4; LUKE 4

### KEY PASSAGE:

John 1:29

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus was tempted, but He trusted God and never sinned. Jesus is perfect and righteous. A perfect sacrifice was required to take away sin. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. He died on the cross to free us from sin and to give us the power to say no to temptation.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



WELCOME

GREET KIDS AND OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

## LEADER Bible Study

We've all felt some degree of hunger at one time or another. We may have had a long day at work with no time for lunch and come home hungry. We may have had a hard workout and found ourselves craving a large meal shortly afterward. We may have skipped breakfast in a hurry to get to church only to hear our stomach growl as the pastor shares that he's wrapping up for the third time. Hunger reminds us that there is something we require to satisfy a physical need.

Have you ever felt a similar sense of hunger deep in your soul, a hunger for God? Have you ever found yourself longing for a moment with God, an experience of His Spirit, a message from His Word?

The temptation of Jesus teaches us how to face temptation ourselves, but it also subtly reminds us of the blessing that comes as we hunger for God.

The first experience of temptation for Jesus came in the form of the enemy, Satan, tempting Him to use His power to turn stones into bread. Jesus' response reminds us that feeding on God's Word is the ultimate source of satisfaction.

In our own lives, we may hunger for a million different things. We may deeply desire companionship, food, a feeling, money, a job, notoriety, and so on. Those

things can all be very good things, but they are not what Jesus was referring to when He spoke to the tempter.

Jesus spoke to the blessing that comes in hungering and thirsting for God Himself because, as is the case in all things Jesus said and did, He is God and knows what's best.

What do you long for above all else? Do you find a deep longing in your soul for God? Do you recognize that nothing else in this world will satisfy that desire? And are you satisfied with Him giving you Himself to meet your greatest need? Not only does the Scripture say that there is blessing in hungering for God, but your experience will also prove that nothing will satisfy you like He can and will.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Temptation: The enticement to do evil. Satan is the tempter. (Matt. 4:3; 1 Thess. 3:5) God does not tempt anyone. (James 1:13) Jesus was "tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:15).**



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “Have you ever been tempted to eat your dessert before dinner? If you gave in to the temptation, what happened?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Temptation Puzzle” on the activity page.

**SAY** “Each of the pictures in your puzzle represent a part of our Bible story. In fact, they represent a particular way Jesus was tempted. We’ll learn more when we read our Bible story.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: RESIST



Choose one kid to be It. Lead It to stand at the front of the room. Direct It to try to make the other kids laugh. It can say funny things, act goofy, make silly noises, etc. Tell kids that if they laugh, they are out. Give It two minutes to see how many kids she can make laugh.

Continue playing, allowing new kids to be It. Determine which kid was able to make the most kids laugh.

**SAY** “Sometimes it was hard to resist the urge to laugh. It’s OK to laugh when something is funny. But there are more serious temptations we do need to resist. In our Bible story, we will learn that Jesus faced some serious temptations but He trusted God and resisted every temptation.”

#### OPTION 2: SWORD DRILL

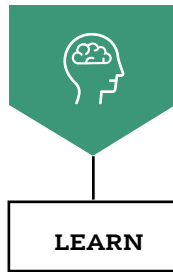
Form the kids into teams of four. Provide each team with a Bible. Explain that each team will choose one kid to stand up with his Bible and turn as quickly as he can to the Bible verse when you say it. Call out a Bible verse of your choosing. Award a point to the team whose kid was the first to flip to the Bible verse.

Lead the teams to choose a new kid for the next round. Continue starting a new round until all team members have had a turn to play. The team with the most points is the winner. If there is a tie, allow each team to choose a kid to flip to a Bible verse the fastest to break the tie.

**SAY** “Ephesians 6:17 says that God’s Word is like a sword. The Word of God is able to cut down temptations we face by reminding us what is true and helping us remember that we have all we need in Jesus. God’s Word equips us to fight temptation and faithfully rest in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Today, we will learn that Jesus was tempted, but resisted sin by trusting God and His Word.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “ Welcome, kids! I am so glad you are here today! My name is [your name], and I am excited to share a story from God’s Word with you. If you have your Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]

God’s Word is powerful. The Bible contains the message of salvation and gives us hope. It also helps us fight against sin. Today, we will learn how Jesus used God’s Word to resist the lies and temptations of the devil. We can follow Jesus’ example and also use Scripture to fight against any temptation we might face. ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

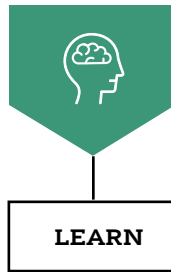
**SAY** “ What did Jesus do to save us? Does anyone remember the answer? [Allow responses.] Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. Over the past few weeks we have been learning about the life of Jesus. One important truth we have learned is that Jesus never sinned.

Today’s Bible story is another reminder of Jesus’ sinless life. Even when He faced real temptations, He chose to obey God and flee from sin. Jesus is the perfect, sinless Savior we need for salvation. ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “ God’s promise to send the Savior into the world came true when Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. He was recognized and praised by Simeon and Anna when, at last, they saw the promised Messiah. Last time we were together, we learned that Jesus began His public ministry by being baptized by John the Baptist, and that He did this to be obedient to God the Father. Today, we will learn what happened right after Jesus was baptized. ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 4; Luke 4. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Was Tempted.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

### JESUS WAS TEMPTED

“ After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus did not eat for 40 days and 40 nights. He prayed and thought about God’s plan for His life. When those days were over, Jesus was hungry.

Then the devil, who tempts people to sin, came up to Jesus. He said, “If You are really God’s Son, prove it. Tell these stones to become bread.”

If Jesus used His power to turn the stones into bread, He could eat them so He wouldn’t be hungry anymore. But Jesus refused. Instead of listening to the devil, Jesus chose to trust God to meet His needs. Jesus said, “God’s Word says that man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

The devil tempted Jesus again. He took Jesus to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and said, “If You are really God’s Son, prove it. Jump off this temple and trust God to protect You.”

The devil even said: “God’s Word says that God will order His angels to keep You safe, and they will protect You so that You will not even strike your foot against a stone.”

The devil had used words from Scripture, but Jesus knew the devil’s command was foolish. Jesus reminded him, “God’s Word also says, do not test the Lord your God.”

Finally, the devil took Jesus to a high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and how great they were. The devil said to Jesus, “I will give You all the riches and power of these kingdoms. They have been given to me, and I can give them to anyone I want. If You want them, all You have to do is fall down and worship me.”

Jesus resisted temptation again. He replied, “Go away, Satan! God’s Word says: Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”

The devil left Jesus, and angels came right away to serve Jesus. Throughout all these temptations, Jesus never sinned.

Christ Connection: Jesus was tempted, but He trusted God and never sinned. Jesus is perfect and righteous. A perfect sacrifice was required to take away sin. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. He died on the cross to free us from sin and to give us the power to say no to temptation. ”

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Raise a Bible:** Provide kids with a Bible. Direct them to raise their Bibles high every time they hear the words “God’s Word” in the Bible story.

**Active listening:** Lead kids to make an X by crossing their arms every time they hear the words “tempts” “tempted” or “temptation.”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ After Jesus was baptized, He was led into the wilderness. Who led Jesus? [Allow responses.] The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus’ temptation was not a surprise to Him. He was willing to be led directly into the devil’s attempts to tempt Him.

How many days and nights did Jesus not eat anything? [Allow responses.] Jesus prayed and fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. That’s a long time without food! It’s no surprise Jesus was hungry. What was the first temptation the devil presented to Jesus? [Allow responses.] The devil knew Jesus was hungry, so he tempted Him to turn stones into bread. But Jesus resisted the temptation by believing Scripture and trusting that God would meet His needs.

The devil tempted Jesus two more times by trying to get Him to disobey God. Did Jesus ever sin? [Allow responses.] No, Jesus trusted God and resisted temptation by using the Word of God like a sword against the devil’s lies.

Jesus defeated the devil’s temptations by trusting God. And He defeated the devil once and for all through His death and resurrection. Jesus is the Word who gives us new life and the power to resist temptation. ”

### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ Jesus was tempted, but He trusted God and never sinned. Jesus is perfect and righteous. A perfect sacrifice was required to take away sin. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. He died on the cross to free us from sin and to give us the power to say no to temptation. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 19, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why does Satan hate God and Christians so much?
2. How can you resist temptation?

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** “ Missionaries had been looking for ways to expand the mission work in the United States territory of Puerto Rico for many years. When Hurricane Maria struck the island in 2017, there was so much damage to the businesses and properties of the people who lived on the island. Puerto Ricans needed immediate assistance to help repair the damage and meet the needs of the people. ”

Play the missions video. Tell kids that Jonathan Santiago and other Send Relief specialists rely on the missionaries and local churches in Puerto Rico to determine the needs of Puerto



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Ricans. Explain that the Send Relief specialists work to find the materials and volunteers that are necessary to meet those needs. Help kids understand that through these efforts there is hope for all families being assisted to be connected to one of the local churches in the area. Explain that when money is given to help the mission work in Puerto Rico, it not only helps meet physical needs, like fixing a roof, but it also helps send more people to make a difference in the lives of others by offering them the hope of Jesus.

Pray for more churches to be started and for more churches to partner with the existing churches in serving the people of Puerto Rico.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 1:29 together.

**SAY** “ For Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for sin, He had to be sinless. Our story today reminds us that Jesus is the perfect sacrifice who takes away the sin of the world. ”

Form kids into one large circle. Hold a ball and say the first word of the key passage. Then throw the ball to a kid. Challenge that kid to say the next word of the key passage and then throw the ball to another kid who will say the next word. Continue until the entire key passage has been said, including the reference. Repeat as time allows.

Lead kids to sing “John Saw Jesus (John 1:29).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “ Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus to live a perfect life for us. Thank You for giving us the power through Jesus to say no to sin. Help our lives be pleasing to You. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**

