

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#08 - The Temptation of Jesus Luke 4:1-13

PICTURES (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

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| 8-1 | Temptation to turn stone into bread | 8-3 | Temptation to throw self down from the temple |
| 8-2 | Temptation of kingdoms of world | | |

REVIEW (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) What did John the Baptist do? What did John call the people to do? What did John say about Jesus? What happened when Jesus was baptized?
- **Big Question Review:** What happened when Jesus was baptized? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** Luke 3:21b-22
When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit came down and the Father said he was well pleased with his Son.

And as he was praying, heaven was opened²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

LESSON CONTENT

Note: The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

Jesus' baptism marked the beginning of his ministry. What happened when Jesus was baptized? The Holy Spirit came down on Jesus the Son in the form of a dove and the Father spoke from heaven saying, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." After being baptized Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert. This passage depicts the triune nature of God.

Luke 4:1-2 (picture 8-1)

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

Why would the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into the desert to be tempted by Satan? Jesus is fully God and was fully man. He had to experience in his body all the struggles other people experience. As a man, he had to demonstrate that he would stand firm and choose to do what is right in all circumstances.

If Jesus had not been tested, people would say it was easy for him to do what was right. Hebrews 4:15 says, *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.*

How long had had Jesus gone without eating? forty days

What would have been the impact on him physically and spiritually? He would have been very weak and vulnerable to temptation.

Luke 4:3-4 – The First Temptation

³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."
⁴Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"

What does Satan mean when he challenges Jesus saying, "If you are the Son of God"? He is calling into question who Jesus really is and setting him up so he feels like he has to prove himself. "If you really are who you say you are then prove yourself."

What is the temptation Satan is placing before Jesus? To satisfy his physical need for food on his own apart from God.

Why would that have been appealing to Jesus? He had gone without eating for a long time. He was really hungry.

How did Jesus respond to the temptation? He quoted God's word and said that man does not live by bread alone.

What does that mean? Relying on and being right with God is as important as having enough to eat. Spiritual provision is as important as physical. He would trust God for provision even when hungry.

Luke 4:5-8 – The Second Temptation (picture 8-2)

*⁵The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷So if you worship me, it will all be yours."
⁸Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"*

What is Satan promising to give in this temptation? Satan promised worldly glory and power over men which was something he was able to give.

How did Jesus respond? He quoted God's word and said that we are to worship and serve God only.

What does that mean? God is whom we are to be devoted to. We are not to give ourselves over to something other than God to gain something we want on this earth.

What power has Satan been given by God in this world? God has ultimate sovereignty. However, Satan has been given power over kings and kingdoms, worldly wealth and power.

To whom does Satan give this power? To those who worship him. We need to be wary of those who have great worldly success and evaluate carefully what they are promoting. That doesn't mean everyone with success or power has given themselves over to Satan. It does mean that everyone who is serving his own interests instead of God's is serving Satan's purposes. Remember, however, since God is sovereign he will use whatever Satan does to serve his purposes.

What does it mean that God is sovereign? God is the ultimate ruler and in control of the outcome of all things. Although Satan may have influence in the short-term, in the end God will take what Satan has done and bring good out of it.

Luke 4:9-12 – The Third Temptation (picture 8-3)

*⁹The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. ¹⁰For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;¹¹they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."
¹²Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.')"*

What is Satan telling Jesus to do in this temptation? For Jesus to do what he wants rather than obey the natural, physical laws God has put in place. Again, prove that he is God.

How did Jesus respond? He quoted God's word and said that we are not to put God to the test.

What does that mean? We don't challenge natural law. We obey the laws God put in place at creation, which means both physical and moral laws. We don't challenge God and his authority. We don't do what we want apart from God.

Luke 4:13

¹³When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

What was Satan waiting for in the future? An opportune time

What does that mean? He would wait until the circumstances would be right to achieve his purposes, which was to destroy Jesus. Satan wanted to kill Jesus, but Jesus' death has brought us life, which was not what Satan intended it to do. Jesus rose from the dead, overcoming death and proving he is God. We have to remember that God is sovereign and uses everything Satan does to achieve his purposes.

There are three forces, which pull us away from God: Satan, the world, and the flesh. Satan works to bring destruction and chaos into the world. He appealed to the world and the flesh when he tempted Jesus.

What is the world? The things of man that are not of God

How did Satan use the appeal of the world in his temptation of Jesus? He tempted Jesus with gaining power over and glory from men when he promised the kingdoms of the earth. In his first coming, Jesus came humbly to serve men, not lord his power over them.

What is the flesh? Our sin nature, things that appeal to our physical body or fallen nature.

How did Satan use the appeal of the flesh in his temptation of Jesus? Jesus was hungry and he told him to turn the stones into bread, which Jesus would have been able to do since he was God.

Why does God allow Satan to tempt us? Our response to temptation shows what lies in our heart and what we want in life. Giving into temptation and sin shows us how much we need a Savior.

What enabled Jesus to resist Satan's temptation? He stood on the word of God, he was connected to the Father and wanted what the Father wanted not the things of the world or the flesh.

James 4:7-8 shows how we, like Jesus, can resist the temptations that Satan places before us. *⁷Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

What are we to do to protect ourselves against Satan's temptations and how did Jesus demonstrate each of these when he was tempted? (Write the answers on the board.)

- Submit to and draw near to God. (Jesus prayed and relied on the Holy Spirit.)
- Resist Satan. (Don't give in. Jesus resisted by quoting the Word of God.)
- Wash hands and purify heart. (Get rid of sin.)
- Don't be double-minded. (Want what God wants. Don't think you can follow both the ways of the world and God. Devote yourself fully to God and his will.)

If we devote ourselves fully to God and only want what he wants, we won't sin. However, if we give into our own fallen desires we will follow Satan into sin. This is important to remember. Jesus didn't sin because he only wanted what the Father wanted. He was completely submitted to his Father's will and didn't have any evil desires.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** How long was Jesus in the desert? What was he doing there? What were the three temptations Satan put before Jesus? How did Jesus respond to each of the temptations?
- **Thought Questions:** Why does God give Satan freedom to roam the earth and worldly power to give away? What does Satan use his power to try to do? What does God do with the havoc Satan causes?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that Jesus is our example and our power to live life well. Thank him that through Jesus' response to Satan we can know what to do to resist temptation. Pray that you would draw close to God and live by his word. Pray that you would resist the devil by filling your mind with God's word and wanting only what God wants.
- **The Big Question:** How do we keep from giving into Satan's temptations? Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: James 4:7-8**
We are to resist the devil and submit ourselves to God.

⁷(Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Come near to God and he will come near to you.) Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Questions: How do we keep from sinning?

ACTIVITIES

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert where he fasted for forty days and was tempted by the devil.

1. Satan challenged Jesus to turn a stone into bread but Jesus said that man does not live by bread alone.
2. Satan said that he would give Jesus the kingdoms of the world if Jesus worshiped him, but Jesus said that it was written to worship God alone.
3. Satan told Jesus to throw himself off the high place because God would send his angels to rescue him, but Jesus said that it was written not to put God to the test.

Why do I need to know this? Satan tries to get us to rebel against God and follow him. To resist him I need to stand firm in the truth and not listen to his lies.

- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the booklet and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse in the inside.
- ★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.
- ★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

- **Craft:** Word Art

As a reminder that we are to resist Satan, make a word art picture of the word "RESIST."

Materials: cover stock paper, colored pencils or crayons, glue sticks

Preparation: Run off craft on cover stock paper. Cut paper in half.

Instructions: Fill in the letters to "Resist" in a decorative way. Fold along gray lines. Glue bottom to side so it stands up.

- **Game:** Pictionary

As a reminder that Satan tries to get us to do things that will hurt us, play Pictionary.

Instructions: Divide into teams or do as a group. Have a child draw a temptation Satan likes to put before people (stealing candy bar, sibling fight, lying, etc.) The other children guess what it is. If playing on teams the team that guesses correctly gets a point. If playing as a group the child who guesses correctly gets to draw next.

JOURNAL

The daily journal is included in the booklet for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.