

THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

#09 - The Temptation of Jesus Luke 4:14-44

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

- 9-1 Jesus teaching in the synagogue
- 9-2 Jesus with the demon possessed man

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) 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?
- **Big Question Review:** How do we keep from giving into Satan's temptations? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review: James 4:7**
We are to resist the devil and submit ourselves to God.

(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.

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.

After Jesus was baptized by John and tempted by Satan in the desert, he began teaching the people throughout the area of Galilee.

Luke 4:14-22 (picture 9-1)

¹⁴Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

¹⁶He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. ¹⁷The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

What was Jesus saying about himself when he read from Isaiah saying, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing"? He was the fulfillment of what Isaiah had said. He was the one God promised to send.

What did Isaiah say about the Messiah? (Reread verses 18-19 and write each description on the board.

- The Spirit of God was upon him. What does that mean? God was with him.
- He had been anointed to preach the good news to the poor. Who are the poor? While some people are poor because they don't have their basic physical needs met due to a lack of material resources, we are all poor in spirit without the good news of Jesus.
- He was sent to proclaim freedom for the prisoners. Who needs to be set free? We are all enslaved to our sin without Jesus and need to be set free.
- He was sent to proclaim recovery of sight for the blind. Who is blind? We are all blind and lost in darkness without the light of Jesus.
- He was sent to release the oppressed. What is oppression? To experience trouble or treated harshly by those in authority. Who needs to be released from oppression? We all experience the oppression of our sin without being released by Jesus.
- He was sent to proclaim the year of God's favor. What is favor? An attitude of approval, goodwill or kindness beyond what is due or usual. What would be the year of God's favor? The year of God's favor would be the year he sent the Savior. God's favor was with the people when Jesus came to earth. It rests on us when we believe in Jesus.

How did the people respond to Jesus after he said those things? People spoke well of him and were amazed.

Luke 4:23-30

²³Jesus said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: 'Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.'" ²⁴"I tell you the truth," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. ²⁶Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. ²⁷And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. ³⁰But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

What did Jesus say the people would do to challenge him? They would tell him to do in their midst the miracles he did elsewhere.

What does it mean that a prophet isn't accepted in his own town? People who have watched a prophet grow up as a child tend to dismiss the power God has placed on him. Other people in distant places who didn't know a prophet as a child would be more likely recognize him for who he is in the eyes of God.

Jesus said Elijah helped a widow in Sidon and a Syrian named Naaman. Why would the people get mad at that? It would have bothered them because both people were Gentiles. The Jews thought they were special, better than others, God's chosen people. What Jesus said challenged their superiority, the idea they held to that God loved them more than other people.

What happened to the way the people viewed Jesus after he challenged their superiority? They were upset with him when just a moment before they spoke well of him.

How upset were they with Jesus? They wanted to kill him.

Why didn't they kill him? He walked right through the crowd without them being aware. It wasn't his time to die. God is sovereign over all. He has control over when things will happen.

Luke 4:31-37 (picture 9-22)

³¹Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. ³²They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority.

³³In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, ³⁴"Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

³⁵"Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

³⁶All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!" ³⁷And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

What amazed people about Jesus and caused the news about him to spread? Both the authority of his message and his power over evil spirits.

What gave Jesus both authority and power? He is God.

What were the people attracted to most about Jesus? His power over demons.

What is the problem with that? That was a sign to give authority to the truth he spoke. Understanding and following the truth is what is most important.

Luke 4:38-44

³⁸Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. ³⁹So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

⁴⁰When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. ⁴¹Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.

⁴²At daybreak Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. ⁴³But he said, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." ⁴⁴And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Who was Simon? The disciple Peter

How did Jesus heal his mother-in-law? He just leaned over her and rebuked the fever.

What does rebuke mean? He sharply addressed it, telling it to go away.

What does that show about Jesus? He is God with the power to heal.

What did the demons know about Jesus? The demons recognized who he is, the Christ, the Son of God.

How did they know this? They were of the spirit world. They discerned spiritual things. As physical beings, people tend to focus on the physical world, not the spiritual.

Why do you think Jesus didn't want the demons to speak of who he was? The people held many wrong ideas about who the Messiah would be and what he would do. Jesus probably wanted people's eyes to be opened as he revealed himself through his words and deeds.

What did Jesus say he was sent to do? Preach the good news of the kingdom of God.

What is the kingdom of God? The kingdom of God is where God is ruler and people are submitted to his authority as king and Lord. It always exists in heaven and but it also exists on earth wherever people submit to God. Our lives on earth should be lived in the kingdom of God, under God's authority, submitted to him as Lord and king.

LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What did Jesus say about the prophecy of Isaiah when he read from it in the synagogue? Why weren't the people able to kill Jesus like they wanted to do? What did the demons say about Jesus? What did Jesus do for Simon's mother-in-law?
- **Thought Questions:** What does so quickly turning against Jesus show about people? What should be the motivation for coming to Jesus? What often is the motivation for following Christ?
- **Prayer:** Thank God that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Pray that you would see him fully for who he is and want to submit to his authority as Lord and king and follow in his way.
- **The Big Question:** What did Isaiah say about the Christ? Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: Luke 4:18-19**
The Spirit of God would be on the Christ and he would preach good news.

¹⁸("The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.") He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

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:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group. What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?
- ★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the class notes and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse.
- ★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.

The Spirit of God would be on the Christ and he would preach good news.

- ★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

- **Craft:** Set free by Christ

As a reminder that we have been set free by Christ may a jail frame out of jumbo craft sticks and skewers.

Materials: Card stock paper, jumbo craft sticks, skewers, glue, colored pencils

Preparation: Run off craft 9 on card stock paper. Cut the saying out along the lines to be the correct size. Cut the skewers to the length of a jumbo craft stick.

Instructions: Color in the saying. Make a frame around the saying with four jumbo craft sticks. Glue the skewer pieces to the craft sticks to form a jail.

- **Game:** Jail

As a reminder that Jesus came to free the oppressed and captives play jail.

Instructions: Designate a jail in one corner of the play area. Select one child to be the jailer. The other children spread out in the play area and the jailer tries to tag them. When a child is tagged, he goes to the jail area. If another child can get to the jail without being tagged, he can free the child in jail. The last child to be tagged becomes the next jailer.

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.