



LESSON 53

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: How to handle temptation. Trust in God.

Bible Character(s): Jesus

Scripture Reference: Matthew 4:1-11



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read Matthew 4:1-11. Also read through Luke 4:1-13 for a second account of the temptation. Compare Jesus' temptation to Adam and Eve's temptation in Genesis 3. Jesus demonstrated that He would succeed where Adam and Eve failed. As you think through temptation, keep in mind that temptation is the work of Satan, but he is also aided by our selfish, sinful nature. We often go through trials of faith that are allowed by God; however, God never tempts us to sin (James 1:13-15). How do you handle the temptation to sin? How well do you know scripture? Do you use it to fight temptation?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Temptation

Ask the campers what temptation means. Read the definition below out loud and then have campers give you examples of things that are tempting to them. Write these things on the white board (to refer to later in the lesson). Some examples: cookies from the cookie jar before dinner, taking a piece of gum that is not theirs, playing an extra five minutes on PlayStation when Mom and Dad aren't monitoring the time, copying someone else's work at school, cheating to win a game (board game, card game, etc), watching a TV show or movie that they're not allowed to watch, etc. **TEMPTATION is the desire to have or do something that is not what God wants.** Don't erase the board; you'll use these examples in another activity.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE

by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

***Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will define temptation and discuss common temptations for the campers. We will also study about how Jesus responded to temptation, the reason He was tempted, His trust in God and what we can do to handle temptation more like Christ.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group? What did the runners figure out? (Camp Diablo tried to trick them to go the wrong way with a detour sign.) **What did you learn about Satan and temptation?** (Satan tries to trick us off the path God has for us with temptations.) **How can we handle temptation?** (We can use God's Word.)

Can you remember what we talked about last week? (We talked about our need to repent of our sin.) **Can anyone remember what repentance means?** (Realizing your sin; recognizing what Jesus did; being truly sorry for your sin; turning away from sin; and putting your trust in Jesus as your Savior.) **God used John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus by telling everyone they needed to repent from their sins. What did Jesus come to do?** (Jesus came to save people from their sins so they could have eternal life.) **He did this not only for the people at that time, but for everyone, including you and me. How can we respond to what Jesus did?** (We can recognize our sin; repent of it; and allow Jesus to change our hearts.) **What else did John the Baptist tell the people to do, after repenting of their sin?** (He told the people to be baptized.) **Baptism is an outward act symbolizing a changed heart. Did Jesus get baptized?** (Yes!) **It was the first thing He did to begin His ministry. God was pleased with Jesus for being obedient.**

Today, we are going to pick up after Jesus was baptized to see what He did next. Let's begin reading the Bible in Matthew 4 [NLT].

Matthew 4:1-2

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

After His baptism, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert. Jesus fasted by going without food. Fasting is giving up food or something important to you for a certain amount of time so that you can focus on God. Jesus was fasting to get ready for His ministry of teaching others about Himself. Jesus fasted for 40 days! How hungry do you think He was? (Allow responses.) Let's continue reading the Bible to see what happens next.

Matthew 4:3-4

*3 During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." 4 But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say,
'People do not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

Who is the tempter? (Allow responses.) Could Jesus have turned a stone like this one into bread? (Show your campers the rock in your bin.) Do you think He wanted to eat? (Allow responses.) Even though Jesus was very hungry, He knew that God did not want Him to give into the devil. He trusted God. He knew that even though this was hard, God had a plan for Him and He could trust God to provide Him with all that He needed. How did Jesus respond to the devil? (He used scripture, God's Word.)

Let's look at the areas where you are tempted to sin, like we talked about before Big Group.

Temptation



The purpose is to help campers identify areas of temptation.

Supplies:

White board with examples of temptation from Plug In Time

Review the definition of temptation. Have your campers go back over the list made during Plug In Time and add any others that the campers come up with. Go through each one and see how the campers generally respond to these temptations. Talk to the campers about Adam and Eve. Ask them if they remember how Adam and Eve were tempted.

Tie It Together



Satan tempts us to disobey God, just as he tempted Eve to disobey God by eating the fruit that God had told Adam and Eve not to eat. We all have a choice to give into Satan's temptations or follow God's plan for our lives. Eve had that choice. She chose to disobey God, just as all of you have chosen to sin and disobey God at some time. Adam had that choice too. He could have chosen not to eat the fruit either, but he chose to eat it. He disobeyed what God had told him and Eve not to do. Jesus also had this choice. What did Jesus choose to do? (He chose to follow God's plan, to obey.) Jesus did what Adam and Eve did not do. He did what you and I do not do. He overcame temptation and did not sin. He lived a perfectly sinless life. Let's continue reading the Bible to see how Satan continued to tempt Jesus.

Matthew 4:5-7

*5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,
'He will order his angels to protect you.
And they will hold you up with their hands*

so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone."

7 Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

How did Jesus respond to this second temptation to sin? (He chose to obey, used Scripture.) Satan knew Scripture as well; he quoted it to Jesus. Satan knew the Scripture, but he did not believe it. It is not enough to just know about God; you have to believe and trust in Him. Jesus believed and trusted that God's plan was the best, and He fought Satan's temptation with Scripture that He not only knew, but fully believed and obeyed.

Let's continue to read the Bible.

Matthew 4:8-9

8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. Jesus could have chosen to accept what Satan offered, but He chose to wait for God's greater reward. Satan offered Jesus things that were not Satan's to offer. Satan does the same thing with us. He wants us to believe that whatever he is tempting us with is better than what God has for us. We know that God is in control of all things; we can trust Him and follow His plan for our lives. How do you think Jesus responded? Do you think He followed Satan's plan? (Allow responses.) Let's find out.

Matthew 4:10-11

*10 "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say,
'You must worship the LORD your God
and serve only him.'"*

11 Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Jesus used Scripture, God's Word, to fight the temptation to sin. He was tempted so that He would know how we feel when we are tempted to sin, but He never gave into the temptation of sin. We are sinners; we disobey God and give in to Satan's temptation. Jesus did not sin. He did not give in to Satan's temptation so that he could be a perfect sacrifice for us. What are some ways that you sin? (Allow responses.)

In verse 11, we see that angels came and took care of Jesus after Satan left. God also takes care of us when we go through hard times and when we are tempted to sin. He will always give us what we need. We can trust Him to care for us.

Temptation and Scripture Defense



The purpose is to show how scripture applies to our daily lives and struggles.

Supplies:

Temptation scenarios (1 set per bin)

Scripture Defense cards (1 set per bin)

Teacher's guide (2 per bin)

Jesus used Scripture to respond to, or defend against, Satan's temptation in the desert, and we can do the same thing in our lives. Play a game in which you lay out each of the temptation scenarios and campers (one at a time or as a group, depending on class size and dynamics) match up the "Scripture Defense" verse with the corresponding scenario. Please clip the sets back together at the end of the activity for the next group.

Tie It Together



As we've said and shown, Jesus used Scripture to defend against Satan's temptation in the desert. The Bible is more than just a bunch of stories about characters; it is full of practical advice and instructions from God to help us in life. God gave us His Word so that we could learn it and use it in our life. One of those uses for scripture is to fight the temptation to sin. How many of you read your Bible (or your parents read the Bible to you) most days? (Allow responses.)

Practicing Our Defense



The purpose is to encourage the campers to know the Word and trust God to defeat Satan's temptations.

Supplies:

Scripture Booklet cover page with Psalm 119:11 (1 per camper)

3x5 index cards (5 per camper)

Zip tie (1 per camper)

Hole punch

Help the campers assemble a scripture booklet. Punch a hole in the upper left corner of the Psalm 119:11 cover page and the notecards. Bind the cards together using the zip tie. (Leave the zip tie a little loose to allow for the pages to be turned.) Have the campers decorate/color the cover. They can also write their names plus "'s" above "Scripture Booklet" to make it more personalized. ("Carson's Scripture Booklet" for example.) Encourage them to add scripture to the blank cards in the days ahead.

Tie It Together



In order to use scripture to help us fight against temptation, we need to know Scripture. We cannot use it to fight against temptation if we do not know what it says about why we should not give into that temptation. God wants us to study His Word so that we can learn more about who He is as our Father, and who we are as His child so that we can understand why we should not give into temptation to sin. Take this book home or put it in your school backpack to use as a way to help you memorize scripture. After you've memorized one verse you can write new verses on additional cards. When you are tempted to sin, recite your verses!

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Thank Jesus for understanding what it is like

to be tempted, and for living a sinless life. Ask Him to help us trust in Him when we are being tempted to sin.



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