

THE BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Scripture:

Matthew 3:1-4:11, Mark 1, Luke 3:1-4:13

Materials:

Bring Hebrew Bible

Memory Verse:

Matthew 4:10 Jesus said to him, "Go Satan! For it written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'" (NASB)

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—After being declared publicly to John as the Son of God by the Father and identified by the Spirit descending as a dove, Jesus was led into the wilderness where he was tempted by Satan to prove who He was, provide His own needs, put God to the test, and get the promised kingdoms without going to the Cross. By completely relying on what God said in His Word, Jesus resisted Satan and was prepared for every temptation He would face.

To Realize—Jesus completely relied on every Word of God to resist Satan's temptations and so can we.

To Respond by—relying on God's Word when tempted, and running to Jesus for help.

Setting up the Story:

Play a review game of "hangman" with the word S-I-N.

Review questions:

1. The Bible is divided into two testaments. One was written before Jesus and one is about after Jesus came. What are they called? (Old and New)
2. About how many years BEFORE Jesus did Abraham live? (2,000 or 2,022)
3. God promised Abraham that He would make his descendants into a great what? (Nation)
4. God promised David that he would make one of his descendants a what forever? (King)
5. Does God always keep His promises no matter how long they take? (YES!)
6. The angel told Joseph in a dream that who was Jesus' father? (God)
7. What town was both King David and Jesus born in? (Bethlehem)
8. Who told the shepherds that the Savior of the world had been born? (an angel)
9. How did the wisemen know that Jesus had been born? (they saw the star)
10. T/F The Bible was written before English was even a language. (TRUE!)

Define sin: **Ignoring what God has said and doing things my own way instead.** God says, "Don't lie." If your mom or dad says, "Did you do this?" then if you ignore what God says and tell them, "no" when you really did it, that's a sin. God says, "Don't covet what someone else has." If you see someone else get good grades, and you wanted the grades they got, if you ignored what God said and maybe even said something unkind about them to your friends, that would be sin. God says, "Love your neighbor the way you love yourself." If you would want someone to be kind to you, but you exclude someone and treat them meanly, that's a sin.

Do you know who wants us to sin? God's enemy, Satan. Because sin separates us from God and it ALWAYS has bad results for us. God loves you, and wants what is good for you. But Satan wants to hurt and damage our souls, so he tempts us to sin. He even tempted Jesus.

Outline:

- I. Jesus is Baptized by John
 - A. God gave clues through the prophets (connected to lesson #1)
 - 1. Malachi 3:1 “send My messenger”
 - 2. Isaiah 42:1 “put my spirit on Him”
 - B. Jesus comes to be baptized
 - 1. He didn’t need to repent of sin
 - 2. He identified with the sinner.
 - C. John Objects at First but Hears and Sees the Messiah Identified
 - 1. “I need to be baptized by you.”
 - 2. Jesus is praying, the heavens open, the Spirit descends like a dove
 - 3. Voice from Heaven: My beloved Son! In You I am well-pleased.
 - 4. Jesus is about 30 years old.
- II. Jesus is Tempted
 - A. He is led into the Wilderness of Judea by God’s Spirit
 - 1. He fasts 40 days/nights
 - 2. He is alone and weak
 - 3. Satan comes to Him (form?)
 - B. Temptation #1 Provide for yourself!
 - 1. If you are the Son of God...
 - 2. Stones to Bread (plenty of stones!)
 - 3. Jesus answers: “IT IS WRITTEN: ‘Man doesn’t live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” Deut. 8:3
 - C. Temptation #2 The Public Test “Show Yourself!”
 - 1. Standing on the pinnacle of the Temple
 - 2. “He will give His angels charge concerning you and on their hands they will bear you up.
 - 3. Answer: “IT IS WRITTEN: ‘You shall not put the Lord Your God to the test.’” Deut. 6:16

As you tell the story:

Jesus grew up, and when He was about 30 years old, God was going to introduce Him to the people who were waiting for him. God had sent a man named John who told the people that God’s Savior-King was about to appear, and they needed to confess their sins and be baptized.

One day as John was baptizing those who were sorry for their sins, guess who walked up? JESUS! Did he need to confess His sins? No! But He wanted to come to the people who were sorry for their sins. That’s who He came for!

Can’t prove, but don’t think Satan came in a form—only in voice. But he was REAL.

Had God provided food for Jesus yet? I have a spoiler alert: at the end of the story, God sends angels with food for Jesus. But you see, Satan is trying to get Jesus to doubt AND to PROVE Himself.

Jesus didn’t argue with Satan, try to deny his hunger, blame God, or provide His needs for himself.

“If you are the Son of God...”
Rabbis taught that when Messiah came into his temple He would stand on the pinnacle and all would see him.

Why would that be a Temptation for Jesus? Because then everyone would SEE HIM! But that would be pride. Instead He was to WAIT and obey just what His Father said—even if people didn’t think He was the Son of God!

- D. Test #3 The Kingdoms without the Cross
1. Took him to a very high mountain and showed him the kingdoms of the world and their glory.
 2. "I will give you these kingdoms if you worship me."
 3. "It is written: 'You shall worship the Lord Your God and Him only shall you serve.'" Deut. 6:13

- III. Satan leaves and Angels come
- A. Satan leaves until an opportune time
 - B. Angels come and minister to Him

Remember God had promised David that One of His descendants would be King forever? It was Jesus—so God had already promised it! Had it happened yet? No! Jesus would have to WAIT for God to keep His promise, just like we have to wait.

Do you know when temptation is the hardest? JUST BEFORE God supplies! That's when we want to give in and do it our own way. And that would be sin. That is what Satan wants.

Conclusion:

There will be times when Satan WILL tempt you! It might be when you are alone, like Jesus was in the Wilderness, or it can even come through a friend. It might sound something like this: a friend will say to you, "Hey! Watch this with me." And you can see that it's something that isn't good. And you say, "No. I don't want to." And your friend says, "Awww, you're just chicken!" And you will say, "No, I'm not." And your friend will say, "Prove it!" When you hear those words, "Prove it!" it might be your friend speaking, but it is satan who is tempting you! And at that moment, there are three words that can break the temptation: "It is written...!" (Pray for students and then move into the rest of the memory verse.)

Memory Verse: Use hand motions for each phrase and say it together.

Jesus said to him,

"Go Satan!

For it written,

'You shall worship the Lord your God,
and serve Him only.'

Matt. 4:10