

3rd & 4th
Unit 10 - Promise Fulfilled
Story 32.B - Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4)

INTRODUCTIONS - Introduce yourself and consider having students do the same if you have children new to the group. Fill out the top of the Roster and take attendance.

BIBLE TIME - Have kids open their bookmarked Bibles **(Matthew 4)**.

Read Matthew 4:5-7
Where did the devil take Jesus? (To the holy city - Jerusalem. They stood on the highest point of the temple. *Use the picture to illustrate where they were standing.)

What is the temple used for? (This is where the sacrifices were made to atone for the sins of the people. It is a place of worship to the Lord.)

The devil is tempting Jesus to throw himself off of the temple and have angels save him. What does the devil say this would prove? (If angels come to save him, it would prove that Jesus is God's Son. Just like in the first temptation, the devil is taunting Jesus to prove who he is.)

Jesus knows what his mission is on earth. What is it? (To die on the cross for the sins of the world as the ultimate sacrifice. *If possible help them see that the devil is tempting him to tempt death, but be saved at the last minute.)

What does Jesus say to the devil's suggestion? (He says, "It is written, 'Do not test the Lord your God.' ")

Where is it 'written'? (The Bible/ Scripture)

Main Point: In the holiest place on earth, where the Ark of the covenant is and sacrifices are made to atone for sin, the devil taunted Jesus to test God the Father. Jesus responded again with God's Word as his defense.

[**Read summary of missing text:** Exodus 17:1-7. Testing the Lord was not anything new to the Israelites. After they were rescued from Egypt, the people grumbled and complained first about food and then about water. They argued with Moses and demanded that the Lord give them what they wanted. They asked, "Is the Lord among us or not?" The Lord answered their need with water from a rock, and the place was named Massah (which means 'testing') because the people tested God there.]

Read Deuteronomy 6:13-17 *This is the Scripture that Jesus is referring to in this temptation and the next. Moses is giving the people instructions before they enter the promised land.

What did Moses warn the people not to do when he reminded them of Massah? (*vs. 16-17 Moses says not to test the Lord your God as they did at Massah.)

This verse says to obey the Lord's commands. How can knowing the terms and rules that the Lord has given you help when you are tempted? (Encourage discussion. *We can fight temptation by looking at what God has said and use it to guide our actions. Specifically we can remember what God had done for us and who we are to him.)

Main Point: Jesus used Scripture to fight the temptation to test God's love for him.

Read Matthew 4:8-11

Where did the devil take Jesus for his last try at temptation? (a very high mountain)

What does Satan want Jesus to do? (He wants Jesus to bow down and worship him.)

What did he say he would give Jesus if he bowed down and worshipped him? (He said that he would give Jesus the kingdoms of the world.)

Who is Jesus? Does he need the devil to give him the kingdoms of the world? (He is God, the one who made the world. He is the reigning King forever.)

How did Jesus respond? (He told Satan to get away from him. Jesus told him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.' " *Remind the kids that you just read the part of the Bible that Jesus is referring to in Deuteronomy 6:13-15.)

Main Point: Jesus would not bow down to Satan, the Lord is the only one who is worthy of our worship and the only one we should serve.)

***Extended Discussion: Connect to understanding of identity**
How did Satan begin the first two temptations? ("If you are the Son of God…" - Lead the kids to see that Satan was trying to make Jesus question his identity as the Son of God.)

How does the word 'if' change this question? (The word 'if' makes it seem like there is doubt as to whether that is true. Ultimately Satan is asking Jesus to prove who he is to others. He's saying, 'If you are the Son of God, prove it to me.")

There are many parts of Jesus' identity that Satan could have picked, but he didn't say, "If you are a carpenter…." or "If you are a man...". Even Satan knew that who we are to God is the most important identity that we have. Think about yourself. Finish this statement in as many ways as you can, "I am a…"? (Help them to see that they are a lot of things - a girl, a boy, a redhead, a student, a child, a baker, an artist, a football player, a dancer… but the most important identity they have is as a Child of God. This isn't something that they have to prove by doing things a certain way.)

Preview Next Week: This week we learned about how Jesus was able to use the Word of God to fight temptation of the devil. Next week we will see how he started his earthly ministry by calling his disciples.

CRAFT: TEMPTATION LIFT THE FLAP SHEET- Give each child the three squares with the temptations of Jesus on them and a sheet with the responses that Jesus gave. Have them fold and glue the temptations onto the sheet to create a lift the flap page with the temptations on top of the response. Encourage them to use the page to tell their families about the three temptations in the desert and Jesus' responses.

PRAYER
Ask the group if they have any prayer requests before leading the kids in prayer.

COMMUNITY & SNACK TIME
Hand out snacks. This is an intentional time to create a sense of community within the group. Sit at the table with the kids and encourage conversation as they eat. If you have extra time, consider playing one of the community building games from the list.

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