

Pre-K & Kindergarten
Unit 10 - Promise Fulfilled
Story 32.B - Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4)

Some Pre-K kids may arrive at the beginning of the service. Do these two activities with them:

TABLE ACTIVITIES - Start with play-doh, puzzles, pop beads, or coloring from the cabinet.

WORSHIP - At 8:45 / 10:30 have kids clean up and gather on the carpet for music. Sing songs with them as you feel led. You may use the CD player and song sheet or sing a song of your choice.

WELCOME - About 15–20 minutes after service starts, have kids sit in a circle on the rug. Consider welcoming them with the following song, to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

> We're glad you're here today *(clap)*, we're glad you're here today *(clap)*,
> Wave your hands and say hello *(everyone waves)*, we're glad you're here today *(clap).*
> God loves you, so do we *(hug yourself)*, God loves you, so do we *(hug yourself)*,
> We are all a family *(everyone puts hands in the middle)*, God loves you, so do we *(hug yourself).*

Set behavioral expectations with the following questions:

> Where are we? *We're at church.*
> Why are we here? *To learn about God and worship him.*
> How should we act in this special place? *Listen carefully and respect each other.*

Go around the circle and let each kid introduce themselves and answer the Question of the Day. (At your discretion, pass a stuffie around during introductions.) Have you ever been in a very high place and looked down? What is the highest place that you've been?

*After the kids respond, you may want to close with: Today we are going to learn about when Satan took Jesus to two very high places to try and trick him into turning from God.

BIBLE SKILLS - Get out the Bible. Explain that the Bible is our greatest treasure because it is the Word of God. (Pre-K will find the Bible in the Treasure Box.) Go over the Bible knowledge point below:

> The Bible has two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Let kids pass the Bible around the circle, with each of them patting it gently and saying, "The Word of God."

MEMORY VERSE - **LAST DAY** "For to us a child is born. He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9-6

- Show them where the words are in the Bible to help them understand that it is a part of God's Word.
- Practice the verse together - Consider using one of the activities on the Memory Game List

BIBLE STORY - Have the kids move to the center of the rug if they are not already there for storytime. Using the pictures provided, tell the story for today.

After Jesus was baptized, The Holy Spirit took Jesus into the desert. (*picture: desert*) Do you remember how long he stayed there? Jesus was there for 40 days and nights. During that time, he didn't eat anything! Can you imagine going 40 days and nights without food? He must have been very hungry. That's when Satan decided to try and trick Jesus into turning from God. This is something we call 'temptation'. The first thing he tried was to get Jesus to turn rocks into bread. (*picture: stones*) Jesus told Satan, "It is written, 'Man must not live only on bread. He must live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " He meant that knowing what God said in the Bible is even more important than food. Can you point to the place where we can read what God says? (*hold up the Bible*) Every time Jesus said, "It is written," he meant in the Bible.

Jesus knew exactly what The Word of God said, and it is a good thing too because the devil had two more tricks up his sleeve. When Jesus wouldn't turn rocks into bread, Satan didn't give up. He took Jesus to the very top of the temple in Jerusalem. (*picture: temple, show kids the highest point*) This was a very high place. Then Satan said something very strange. He told Jesus that if he was really the Son of God, he should jump off and have angels save him! Does that sound like a good idea? No! Jesus did not have to prove to Satan that he was the Son of God. Years later, Jesus would die on the cross for our sins, and even then he would not ask the angels to save him.

Instead of jumping, Jesus reminded Satan that God had told his people not to test him. More than a thousand years earlier, God had brought his people out of Egypt where they were slaves. Even though he saved them, the people still tested God and grumbled that he didn't take care of them, so God told them not to test him anymore. Jesus remembered that time and told Satan, "It is also written, 'Do not test the Lord your God.' "

Satan did not give up yet. He brought Jesus to a high mountain where Jesus could see very far away. (*picture: high mountain overlooking kingdoms*) Satan told Jesus that if Jesus would bow down and worship him, Satan would give him all the kingdoms of the world. Can you believe it? Satan wanted Jesus to worship him! Do you think that Jesus bowed down to Satan? No! Jesus didn't need Satan to give him the kingdoms of the world. The entire world and everything in it already belonged to Jesus. After all Jesus is the one who made the world. Jesus told Satan to get away from him. He said, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.' "

Jesus could not be tricked into testing God or into serving Satan. He came to earth to save the whole earth, not to become just like the people here. He knew that when we are tempted to do something wrong, we should stop and think about what the Word of God tells us to do. Jesus knew that God's way is always the right way!

Big Truth: Jesus resisted temptation by using the Word of God!

5. SNACK & REVIEW - Pass out snacks at the table (check allergies on attendance roster). Ask kids if they have any prayer requests and pray before eating. As they're eating, review the story and take some time getting to know them!

6. CRAFT: STORY SEQUENCING- Give each child a copy of the sequencing squares and one set of pictures. Review the story with them using the pictures in the set. As you go through each part of the story, have the kids glue the corresponding picture to the sequencing chart.

7. PLAYTIME If time allows, kids may play with toys or do a community game until their parents come.

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