

Jesus Was Tempted

Unit 2 (January) Session 1 Wednesday 4th and Sunday 8th

Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11

Unit Verse

"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me." John 6:38

Life Point

Jesus was tempted but did not sin.

Devotions

Temptation is not a sin. Giving in, however, is. How do we know? Christians know the difference because Jesus was tempted, but He never sinned. Knowing Jesus is the master at managing temptation (Hebrews 4:15) helps us evaluate and apply what He did.

ACTION 1: **Notice where you are currently vulnerable.** (Matthew 4:14) Jesus had just fasted – prayed and went without food for 40 days and nights, so naturally, He was incredibly hungry. The tempter, known as the devil or Satan attacks our weaknesses, such as pride, loneliness, anger, disappointment, weariness, feeling powerless, overtalking, overeating, undervaluing, underworking – the list goes on and on.

ACTION 2: **Fight and win with Scripture.** (Matthew 4:5-7,10) The devil showed that quoting Scripture does not mean the quoter uses Scripture correctly. When the devil quoted Psalm 91:11-12, his goal was not to honor God but to tempt Him. How do we know? Jesus said so in verse 7 (and based on Deuteronomy 6:16). The devil is no match for us when we rely on the truths of God's Word (Proverbs 3:5-6).

ACTION 3: Simply tell the devil to go away just as Jesus did. (Matthew 4:8-10) When we stop listening to Satan or stop entertaining his temptations, his power over us is diminished. But just know he will try another way and then another way. Keep telling him to go away. This action couples well with the biblical commands to resist (James 4:7) and to flee or turn from sin (Ezekiel 18:21,30, Acts 26:18, 1 Timothy 6:11). We dare not assume we are stronger than Satan, but God is! Typically, we recognize temptations after we have given in to them. How can you be more proactive and recognize temptation before giving in? What temptations do children typically face? Does jealousy arise when someone gives the Bible answer they would have given? Do you see selfish wrangling to sit next to you or to be the first to finish the project? How can you subtly help children resist temptations that arise?