



## ELEMENTARY LARGE GROUP

### LESSON 3

## JESUS' TEMPTATION

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Was Tempted and Never Sinned

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 4; Hebrews 4

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** After Jesus fasts for 40 days and nights, Satan tempts Him three times. Each time, Jesus answers the tempter by quoting Scripture and does not sin, choosing instead to trust God.

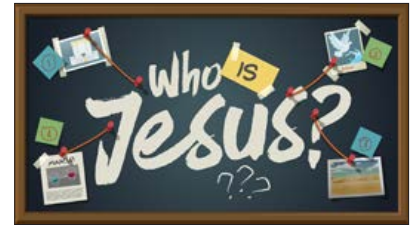
**WORD OF WONDER:** The Son is the exact likeness of God, who can't be seen. The Son is first, and he is over all creation. —Colossians 1:15

### CURIOSITY

### BELIEF

### FAITH

- **\*\*Pre-Service Game Interactive Game: Truth Detectives**
- Welcome Question: Have you ever believed a lie? Tell about it.
- SMALL GROUP
- Prayer of Invitation
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Worship: My Help, What a Friend
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Responding in Worship: Famous For
- Blessing Your Kids



[Who is Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Was Tempted and Never Sinned

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 4; Hebrews 4

**WORD OF WONDER:** Colossians 1:15

“No, no, no, no, no,” I heard my toddler, Jack, muttering. Alerted, I ran and caught him just as he was about to stick his father’s keys in an outlet. Too young to understand the danger, Jack was at least old enough to associate the little holes in the wall with the forbidden—his whispered “no” saved him from calamity even if it didn’t stop the urge to disobey.

Like Jack, all of us have sometimes chosen to ignore God’s “no” and choose our own “yes.” We take shortcuts to pleasure or fulfillment, heedless of the danger.

Not Jesus. Take a moment to read Matthew 4:1–11. Notice how Satan tempts Jesus in the wilderness. He invites Jesus to take things—sustenance, protection, and power—that were already His by right. Satan’s “shortcuts” offer false promises. But Jesus knew who He is, and He saw through the lies.

In some ways, we’re all in the wilderness—the in-between time as we wait for Christ to return. Where are you tempted? What does Satan offer you as an “escape hatch” from your present circumstances? Where do you turn for comfort and satisfaction other than God? Jesus gets it. He’s been there. And He wants to remind you of who you are. When you are certain of your identity as a daughter or son of the Father, His voice becomes clear. And Jesus is waiting to show you how to listen to God’s “no” so you can experience the very best “yes.”

—Lise Caldwell

Children’s Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

The devil is a personality of evil bent on undermining God's creative purposes and redemptive plan. Satan deceives, tempts, and accuses. Scripture calls him the father of lies (John 8:44) and depicts him as a prowling lion looking for someone to devour (1 Peter 5:8).

**WHAT?**

The Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness, or desert. There, the devil tempts Jesus to abuse His status as God's Son and abandon His vocation as the Messiah. Jesus resists temptation by quoting Scripture and does not sin.

**WHERE?**

After being baptized at the Jordan River, just north of the Dead Sea, Jesus is led into the desert by the Holy Spirit. This likely means the Judean Desert located between Jerusalem and the Jordan River.

**WHEN?**

This story is wedged between Jesus' baptism, where He was affirmed as the Son of God by the Father and the presence of the Spirit, and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee. Jesus was around 30 years old at the time (Luke 3:23).

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

During the exodus, the Israelites followed God through the sea into the wilderness. Jesus followed God through the waters of baptism into the desert. Unlike the Israelites, Jesus trusted God in the desert. Jesus, the Son of God, was proven able to fulfill God's calling.

### Large Group

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** Jesus Was Tempted and Never Sinned

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**WORD OF WONDER:** Colossians 1:15

### As kids arrive...

Around 20 minutes before service begins, display series theme loop. Play high-energy music in the background.

LG Leader walks around the room on mic and greets kids by name as they enter the room. Welcome kids by name and greet them with enthusiasm. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding to what they say.

**SLIDE: SERIES THEME LOOP**

**VIDEO: COUNTDOWN** (2min OR 30sec) Start a countdown to begin game 10 minutes prior to service start)

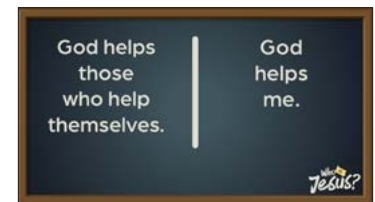
## Interactive Game: Truth Detectives

7-10 MINUTES PRE-SERVICE

### SLIDE: TRUTH DETECTIVES

In this activity, you will present kids with two statements, and they will decide which statement is a truth from the Bible and which is not. Kids will move to the side of the room that corresponds with their answers while performing an action, such as jumping.

**"Today you're going to be truth detectives! Your job will be to figure out which statement is truth from the Bible and which one isn't!"**



**Advance to the second slide of the Truth Detectives Game Slides.** Read the two statements aloud to kids and point to the side of the room that represents each answer (left or right). Then tell kids which action to do on their way to their chosen side (actions provided below). Once kids have traveled to a side, **advance to the next slide** to reveal the correct answer and read the corresponding Bible verse. Next, invite everyone to return to the center of the room while you advance to the next slide. Continue until you've read all five sets of statements and their corresponding answers and Bible verses.

**Leader Tip:** If kids struggle to make a choice, assure them that it's OK to not know the answer and invite them to guess. If needed, count down from 10 to encourage kids to choose an answer more quickly.

The slides contain the following statements. For your reference, the correct answer is in bold print, and an action is provided:

God helps those who help themselves. **God helps me.** (Take giant steps to a side.)

**Wolves will live with lambs.** The lion will lie down with the lamb. (Belly crawl to a side.)

God works in mysterious ways. **God's ways are higher than ours.** (Jump to a side.)

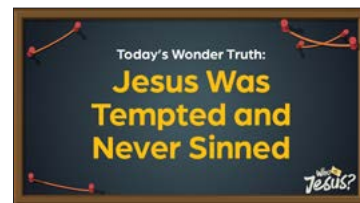
A whale swallowed Jonah. **A huge fish wallowed Jonah.** (March to a side.)

**Adam and Eve ate fruit.** Adam and Eve ate an apple. (Spin to a side.)

Gather kids together. **Just like we were detectives determining which statements were truth from the Bible, Jesus used the truth of God's Word to fight the lies of Satan. Sometimes we can forget truth when faced with a lie, but Jesus can help us.**

#### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.**"



#### Make It Inclusive!

If you have kids who are restricted to sitting, invite them to raise their hands (either left or right) to correspond to their choice of sides. Or if some kids are limited in which movements they can do, choose actions that everyone can do.

### Welcome Question

**SUPPLIES:** paper, coloring utensils, poster board OR whiteboard, dry-erase markers (if needed)

#### SLIDE: WELCOME QUESTION

##### At your start time ...

Welcome kids and tell them that you are excited to hear their answers to the Welcome Question. Call on several kids to share their answers:

**"Have you ever believed a lie? Tell about it."**

**"Many of you shared about a time you believed a lie. Today in God's big story we're going to learn about a time Satan tempted Jesus to sin—or do wrong things—by twisting the truth and lying. But Jesus knew the truth and didn't believe Satan's lies. First, it's time to be curious."**



### Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

### Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

#### VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

**"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"**

## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, thank You that we can meet here together and learn more about You. Help us to hear and understand Your story. Thank You that by dying on a cross Jesus made the way for us to become Your kids! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## Declaring God's Wonder

### SLIDE: DECLARATION

Display the Temptation Declaration Slide. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

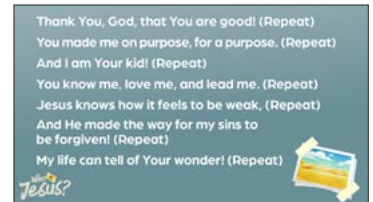
**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**Jesus knows how it feels to be weak,** (Kids repeat.)

**And He made the way for my sins to be forgiven!** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)



## Worship

**\*\*NEW SONGS!!** Consider sharing some about the songs you are going to sing. What they mean, why we sing them, why they are meaningful and important to you!

**"We're going to stand and sing together! One way that we show love to God is to worship through song! So stand up, sing loud, and join in the motions with us. God loves to hear us sing praises to Him! Let's stand together and sing!"**

**WORSHIP VIDEOS: My Help, What a Friend**

## God's Big Story

### SLIDE: TITLE

Explain to kids they're the main story takes place in the book of Matthew chapter 4. Matthew is the first book of the New Testament.

**"Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!"**

**VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY**



# LESSON 3 JESUS' TEMPTATION

## EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** pencils (1 per kid), large stones/rocks, robe, scissors (prep only), cardstock (optional), clipboards (optional), beard and wig costume pieces (optional)

**RESOURCES:** *Temptations and Truths Sheet (1 per kid plus 1)*, *Words of Jesus Cards (2/campus)*

Ahead of time, print out a Temptations and Truths Sheet for each kid (and one for yourself), on cardstock if possible. Place pencils where they are easily accessible. If using clipboards, clip one Temptations and Truths Sheet to each board, one per kid. Place beard and wig costume pieces and large stones/rocks on the stage area. Prepare the Temptations and Truths Slides to display. Print the Words of Jesus Cards (on cardstock if available) and cut apart the cards. Place the cards on stage near the costume pieces. Invite a male leader to wear the costume and portray Jesus.



**"John the Baptist was getting people ready for Jesus. As they confessed their sins—the wrong things they had done—he baptized them in the Jordan River. Even though Jesus had never sinned, He came to be baptized. When Jesus came out of the water, He experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit and felt the love of God the Father. Jesus heard God's voice declaring the truth about who He is: "This is my Son" (Matthew 3:17).**



**Jesus was ready to begin His ministry, but first He would be tested. The Holy Spirit led Him into the dusty desert. He didn't eat anything for 40 days and 40 nights.**

**Our friend** (say the name of the volunteer playing Jesus) **has agreed to play the part of Jesus today. Let's give him a hand!**

Invite male leader on stage. Have him dress in the robe and the wig and beard (if using), and hand him the Words of Jesus Cards. Position the volunteer among the rocks on stage.

**The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the dusty desert. For 40 days and 40 nights, Jesus didn't eat anything. That's when the tempter—Satan—came. Satan is the smooth-talking devil who weaseled his way into the hearts of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. He lied to them, and they did wrong. They sinned. Now Satan would try to make Jesus do the same by tempting Him.**

(To kids) **This is where you come in. Satan tempted Jesus to sin three times, and each time Jesus responded with words from God. On this sheet (hold up the Temptations and Truths Sheet) are the words Jesus spoke to Satan, with some words missing. Listen carefully so you can write or draw in the missing words.**

Give each kid a pencil and a Temptations and Truths Sheet (on a clipboard, if using).

**After 40 days and nights with no food, Jesus was hungry. The tempter said (read with emotion), "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread" (Matthew 4:3). Jesus could have done it, but He trusted God instead. Jesus hadn't come to perform self-serving miracles in the desert. He had come to serve God and give of Himself for the good of others.**

**Jesus answered the devil by quoting Scripture:** Direct volunteer to read Words of Jesus Card 1: “It is written, ‘Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God’ ” (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3).

**Did you hear that? Man must not live only on what?** Kids respond, “Bread!”

**Display the first Temptations and Truths Slide,** which shows an image and the word BREAD.

**Great! Write the word bread or draw a picture of bread on that first blank.** Point to the first blank on the Temptations and Truths Sheet. Remind kids to put their pencils down once they’re finished. Then walk with the volunteer playing Jesus to a second location in the room (someplace with good lighting). Invite kids to swivel around to see.



**Next Satan took Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem and had Him stand on the very top of God’s temple. Jesus had answered the first temptation with Scripture, so now that sneaky devil tried to use Scripture against Jesus.** (Read with emotion) “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. It is written, ‘The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won’t trip over a stone’ ” (Matthew 4:6; Psalm 91:11–12).

**But Jesus answered:** Direct volunteer to read Words of Jesus Card 2: “It is also written, ‘Do not test the Lord your God’ ” (Matthew 4:7; Deuteronomy 6:16).

**Do not what the Lord your God?** Kids respond, “Test!”

**Display the next Temptations and Truths Slide,** which shows an image and the word TEST.

**Yes! Write the word test or draw a test in the space in the second truth.** Point to the second blank on the Temptations and Truths Sheet. Remind kids to put their pencils down once they’re finished. Then walk with the volunteer playing Jesus to a third location (with good lighting). Invite kids to swivel around to see.



**Then that desperate, scheming devil took Jesus to the top of a high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world.** (Read with emotion) “If you bow down and worship me,” Satan said, “I will give you all this” (Matthew 4:9). **Though Jesus had come to bring about God’s kingdom, Satan wanted Him to forget about God. He was offering Jesus a shortcut to power. Why should Jesus follow God when He could rule the world right now?**

**But Jesus answered:** Direct volunteer to read Words of Jesus Card 3: “Get away from me, Satan! It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve’ ” (Matthew 4:10; Deuteronomy 6:13).

**God is the only one we should what?** Kids respond, “Serve!”

**Display the third Temptations and Truths Slide,** which shows an image and the word SERVE.

**Excellent! Write the word serve or draw a picture of someone serving in the last space on your sheet.** Collect pencils and return to the stage area.





After the third try, Satan left, defeated, and angels came and took care of Jesus. Satan had failed to tempt the Son of God into sin. Thank the volunteer playing Jesus. He can quietly remove his costume items and return to his seat.

Hundreds of years before, God's people, the Israelites, had failed to trust God as they wandered the desert for 40 years. Jesus had done what the Israelites failed to do years before. He trusted God in the desert. One of the writers of the Bible wrote that Jesus "has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

Jesus knows what it's like to feel weak and hurt. He offers us help and makes the way for our sins to be forgiven so we can call God our Father too. Jesus came as the light who can shine in the darkness because Jesus was tempted and never sinned."

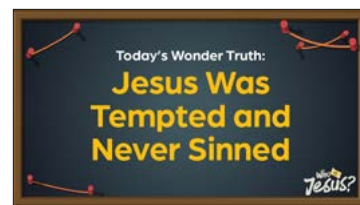
## Connecting the Wonder Truth

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

"Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in action in the story?

Allow kids to answer freely.



Long before Jesus came to earth, God led the Israelites across the Red Sea and into the wilderness. God led Jesus through the waters of baptism and into the desert. The Israelites didn't always trust God in the desert, but Jesus did. Jesus would continue to trust His Father, God, all the way to the cross."

## Responding in Worship

### SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson.

\*\*\*Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.

### WORSHIP VIDEO: Famous For



## Blessing Your Kids

Speak a blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. Use your own words. Here is an example:

**Blessing:** May God help you remember who you are—His chosen, forgiven, beloved kid! And may Jesus, who understands what it feels like to be hurt and weak, help you recognize the enemy's lies and replace them with truth!

1 Who is Jesus? 00:07.01

WJU theme loop.mp4

7 Truth Detective Game Slide 03.p...

Wolves will live with lambs.

The lion will lie down with the lamb.

13 Truth Detective Game Slide 09...

Adam and Eve ate fruit.

Adam and Eve ate an apple.

19 4:26.77 my\_help\_-\_motions.mp4

25 Temptations and Truths Slide...

BREAD

Who is Jesus? Jesus? Jesus?

2 who\_is\_jesus\_30-second\_cou... 0:35.27

Who is Jesus? 00:28

8 Truth Detective Game Slide 04...

Wolves will live with lambs.

The lion will lie down with the lamb.

14 Truth Detective Game Slide 10...

Adam and Eve ate fruit.

Adam and Eve ate an apple.

20 5:04.68 What a Friend Motions.mp4

26 Temptations and Truths Slide...

TEST

1+2=

3x3

3 who\_is\_jesus\_2-minute\_count... 2:06.33

Who is Jesus? 01:58

9 Truth Detective Game Slide 05...

God works in mysterious ways.

God's ways are higher than ours.

15 Temptation Wonder Truth Slide...

Today's Wonder Truth: Jesus Was Tempted and Never Sinned

21 Who is Jesus 1920x1080.png

Who is Jesus?

27 Temptations and Truths Slide...

SERVE

4 Truth Detective Title Slide.png

Truth Detectives

10 Truth Detective Game Slide 06...

God works in mysterious ways.

God's ways are higher than ours.

16 Temptation Welcome Question...

Have you ever believed a lie? Tell about it.

22 In God's Big Story: Jesus' Temptation Matthew 4; Hebrews 4

Jesus' Temptation

28 Temptation Wonder Truth Slide...

Today's Wonder Truth: Jesus Was Tempted and Never Sinned

5 Truth Detective Game Slide 01.p... 3:58.00

God helps those who help themselves.

God helps me.

11 Truth Detective Game Slide 07...

A whale swallowed Jonah.

A huge fish swallowed Jonah.

17 who\_is\_jesus\_5-minute\_coun... 5:08.43

Who is Jesus? 04:58

23 WJU Elem Gods Big Story L3.m... 5:56.52

29 Responding in Worship.png

Responding in Worship

6 Truth Detective Game Slide 02...

God helps those who help themselves.

God helps me.

12 Truth Detective Game Slide 08...

A whale swallowed Jonah.

A huge fish swallowed Jonah.

18 Temptation Declaration Slide V... 3:58.00

Thank You, God that You are Good!

You made me on purpose, for a purpose.

And I am Your child.

You know me, love me, and feed me.

Jesus knows how it feels to be weak.

And He made the way for my sins to be forgiven!

He'll be with me every day for my sins to be forgiven!

He'll be with me every day for my sins to be forgiven!

24 Who is Jesus 1920x1080.png

Who is Jesus?

30 famous\_for\_-\_lyrics (1080p)..... 3:58.00

Shout! Praises Kids

Who is Jesus? Jesus? Jesus?