



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.

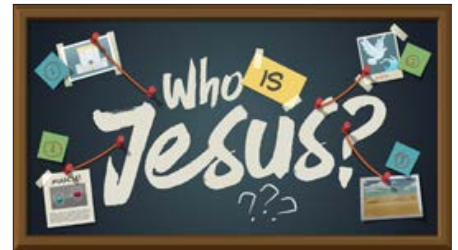
WORD OF WONDER: Jesus is the image of God, who is invisible. —from Colossians 1:15

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: Never Better, What a friend
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Who is Jesus Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



INVITATION

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

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WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Was Tempted and Never Sinned

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WORD OF WONDER: From 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.



LESSON 3 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

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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Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Welcome, Tac the Cat! Let's wave hello to him.

Tac the Cat: Hey, kids! What a great day I've had so far. It was my birthday yesterday. There's only one thing I'm curious about ...

Leader: What are you curious about?

Tac the Cat: How do I resist wanting to do something I know I'm not supposed to do? I'm tempted to do something I'm not supposed to do.

Leader: Oh no! What are you tempted to do but shouldn't?

Tac the Cat: I got this really cool toy mouse from my parents for my birthday. It even has a tail that moves back and forth on its own!

Leader: That sounds nice. What's the problem?

Tac the Cat: Well, I want to show my friends at school. But my mom said I can't bring it to school.

Leader: It can be hard to be told you can't do something you want to.

Tac the Cat: All my friends really want to see my brand-new, totally awesome toy mouse. Maybe I could just sneak it inside my backpack and show it to them during recess.

Leader: It sounds like you're tempted to do something wrong.

Tac the Cat: *(sighs)* I am.

Leader: Why do you think your mom said no?

Tac the Cat: We aren't allowed to bring toys to school. And my mom thinks it would be easy to lose my toy mouse if I took it outside our house.

Leader: This reminds me of something we're going to hear about in God's big story today. We're going to learn how Jesus knows what it's like to feel tempted and that He never sinned. Do you think God can help you resist the temptation to do the wrong thing?

Tac the Cat: Yes, I think God can help me. I can show my friends the toy at my house! That story from the Bible sounds great! I'm going to go play with my cool new toy now, so I'd better go! See you next time!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever been tempted to do something you shouldn't do? Allow the kids to respond. Are you more tempted to break the rules when you're tired or hungry? What do you feel like and how do you act when you're tired and hungry? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how Jesus can help us when we are tempted to do wrong things? Jesus was tempted and never did anything wrong!"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED**. Today we'll discover how Jesus knows what it's like to feel weak and even be tempted, but He didn't give in to temptation!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

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

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

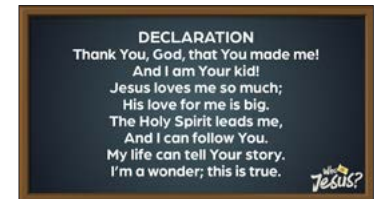
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, thank You that we can meet here together and learn more about You. Help us hear and understand Your story. We invite the Holy Spirit to help us see how Jesus knows what it feels like to be weak or hurt but still not sin. Thank You that Jesus made the way—through dying on the cross—for us to become Your kids! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today we'll learn about how Jesus was tempted and never sinned. Let's sing about how Jesus made a way for us to be God's kids!"

WORSHIP SONGS: Never Better, What a friend

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the books of Matthew and Hebrews in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the books of Matthew and Hebrews in the Bible."

VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible, cardstock (5 sheets)

RESOURCES: [God's Big Story Sheets \(2/campus\)](#)

Ahead of time, print the God's Big Story Sheets onto cardstock.

"Let's sit down. Gather kids together. **Today in God's big story, we will hear about when Jesus was tempted three times, but He never sinned. Each time Jesus was tempted, He gave an answer. You'll stand up each time Jesus gives His answer and I'll tell you when to sit down.**



Hold up Picture 1. **After Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, Jesus was ready to start working with God. First, He was going to be tested. Jesus went to the dusty desert. He didn't eat any food for 40 days and 40 nights. He was hungry! The enemy, Satan, came to try to make Jesus do wrong things, or sin.**

Hold up Picture 2. **The enemy said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread" (Matthew 4:3). Jesus could have turned the stones into bread. But He trusted God and knew God's Word, so He didn't.**

Jesus didn't come to do magic tricks in the desert. He came to serve God and people. Jesus answered the enemy by saying a Bible verse (have kids stand): "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; see also Deuteronomy 8:3). Have kids sit down.

Hold up Picture 3. **Next, Satan took Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem. He took Jesus to the tippity top of God's temple. Satan told Jesus to throw Himself down to test God and see if the angels would protect Jesus. But Jesus said another Bible verse (have kids stand): "It is also written, 'Do not test the Lord your God' " (Matthew 4:7; Deuteronomy 6:16). Have kids sit down.**

Hold up Picture 4. **Then, the enemy, Satan, took Jesus to the top of a high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world. "If you bow down and worship me," Satan said, "I will give you all this" (Matthew 4:9). Jesus came to bring God's kingdom to earth, but Satan wanted Him to forget about God. "Get away from me, Satan!" Jesus said. Then He said another Bible verse (have kids stand): "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve' " (Matthew 4:10; Deuteronomy 6:13). Have kids sit down.**

Hold up Picture 5. **Then, Satan left. Satan lost because Jesus did not sin. Angels then came and took care of Jesus.**

Even though Satan tried to get Jesus to sin, Jesus never did. Jesus knows what it's like to be tempted. And Jesus knows what it's like to feel weak and hurting. He helps us and forgives our sins. Jesus was tempted and never sinned."

Connecting the Wonder Truth

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

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth 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. Much later, God led Jesus through the waters of baptism and into the desert. The Israelites didn't always trust God in the desert. But when Jesus was in the desert, He did trust God. Jesus would continue to trust His Father, God, all the way to the cross. Jesus knows what it is like to be tempted and weak, and yet He did not sin. We can come to Him and be forgiven for our sins."

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God that Jesus made the way for our sins to be forgiven and for us to be God's kids! Use your own words. Here is an example:

God, thank You for sending Jesus to make a way for our sins to be forgiven and for us to be Your kids! Thank You that Jesus knows what it's like to be hurt or weak. With Jesus' help, let us stand against temptation with Your truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: May God help you remember who you are—His much-loved kid! And may Jesus, who understands what it feels like to be hurt and weak, help you replace the enemy's lies with His truth!