



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.

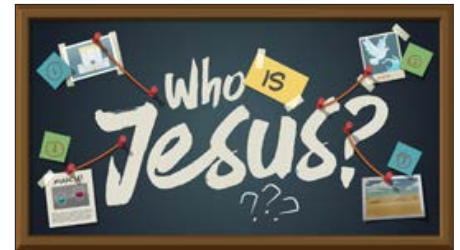
**WORD OF WONDER:** Jesus is the image of God, who is invisible. —from Colossians 1:15

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
  - In the Desert
  - Stones and Bread
  - Jesus' Temptation Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: From Colossians 1:15
- God's Big Story/Snack
- Circle Time: Balloon Catch
- LARGE GROUP
- Craft: Tell the Story Booklet
- Game: Temptation Floor



Who is Jesus Preschool Spotify playlist



**INVITATION**

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

**LESSON AT A GLANCE**

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

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** kinetic sand, bin, stones (handful), toy bread, coloring utensils, toy vehicles (optional), toy people figures (optional), measuring cups (optional), muffin tin (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Jesus' Temptation Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"**

#### Play Station: In the Desert

**Set-up:** Place kinetic sand inside a bin. You can also set out toy vehicles, toy people figures, and measuring cups in the container.

**Play:** Encourage kids to play in the kinetic sand by using their hands and any toys you may have provided.

#### Play Station: Stones and Bread

**Set-up:** Set out stones and toy bread. If you have a muffin tin, place a few stones in it.

**Play:** Encourage kids to pretend to make bread and sort the stones.

**Leader Tip:** Make sure the stones are large enough that kids can't put them inside their mouths, but small enough that kids can hold the stones in their hands.

#### Play Station: Jesus' Temptation Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a Bible.

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, jump ropes (2)

Set two jump ropes on the ground, in lines parallel to each other. Make the gap about 1' between the two ropes.

### WORD OF WONDER

**Jesus is the image of God, who is invisible.**

—from Colossians 1:15

"Our Word of Wonder is from Colossians 1:15. In God's big story today, we learned how Jesus felt weak just like we do sometimes, but He never did wrong things. Jesus used God's Word to fight against temptation. Our Word of Wonder tells us that Jesus rules over all creation and shows us what God is like. Let's practice the Word of Wonder together. Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **JESUS IS**—Open arms out to sides, one at a time.
- **THE IMAGE OF GOD**,—Point up.
- **WHO IS INVISIBLE**.—Cover eyes.
- **FROM COLOSSIANS 1:15**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Now let's play **Cross the Desert**. We'll use God's Word to help us cross the desert! Encourage the kids to get into a line behind one of the ropes. **You'll say the Word of Wonder then hop across the desert.** Use the motions above to help kids recall and recite the Word of Wonder together. Then encourage them to hop across the gap to the other side of the "desert." Make the gap bigger by spreading the ropes farther apart and say the verse with the kids again. Continue as time allows.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What do you think it means that Jesus is the image of God?**
- **How does Jesus show us what God is like?**

## God's Big Story / Snack

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

**Read pages 242–247 in the Laugh and Grow Bible.**

## Circle Time: Balloon Catch

**SUPPLIES:** balloon

**Allergy Caution:** Be aware of any latex allergies or sensitivities among your kids and volunteers before doing this activity!

Before the activity, inflate a balloon. **"In today's story, Jesus felt weak and was tempted, but He never sinned. Let's play Balloon Catch! It may be tough, but we can help each other.**

Instruct kids to stand in a circle with their feet planted on the floor—they can't move from that spot. When you say, "Go!" invite the kids to tap the balloon around the circle to each other. After about 15 seconds, call out, "Catch it!" Whoever is closest to the balloon can catch it and answer a discussion question. Continue until all questions are answered. If kids have trouble standing in one spot, have kids sit in a circle instead.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Where was Jesus tested?** (in the desert)
- **How many days did Jesus go without eating food?** (40 days)
- **Satan tempted Jesus to sin three times. What did Jesus do each time Satan tempted Him?** (said verses from Scripture)
- **Jesus knows what it's like to feel weak and hurt. Where in today's story do you see Jesus feeling weak?**
- **Jesus offers to help us when we are weak and tempted—He knows how we feel! When have you been tempted to do the wrong thing?**
- **How can Jesus help you the next time you are tempted?**

**After Jesus didn't eat for 40 days and nights, He was weak and very hungry. Satan lied to tempt Jesus, but Jesus responded with the truth of God's Word. By dying on the cross, Jesus made the way for our sins to be forgiven and for us to be God's kids! As God's kids and with Jesus' help, we too can say no to temptation. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"**

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God that Jesus knows what it's like to feel weak and hurt even though He never sinned.

**Make It Inclusive!** Some kids struggle to think of people to pray for. On craft sticks, write the roles of people kids can pray for, such as parent, teacher, brother or sister, neighbor, aunt or uncle, friend, and older relative. Place the sticks in a jar. Kids who aren't sure who to pray for can pull a stick and pray for that person in their lives. The leader reads which person the kid selected. Keep the jar available for kids to use every week.

## Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

## Craft: Tell the Story Booklet

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), yarn (6" per kid), coloring utensils, hole punch, kid-safe scissors (1 per kid, optional)

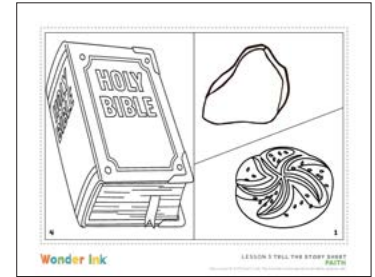
**RESOURCES:** Tell the Story Sheet (1 per kid)

Before you begin, print the Tell the Story Sheet. You'll need one copy for every kid. Cut around the dotted lines (or let the kids cut their own). Pre-cut a 6" piece of yarn for each kid to tie the story papers together. Set out coloring utensils. Make a sample Tell the Story Booklet to show kids.

**Today we learned how Jesus used God's Word to fight against temptation. Let's make a booklet to remind us of God's big story. First, you'll color your story! Then, you'll cut it out and put the pictures in order using the numbers.**

Point out the numbers in the bottom right

corner for the kids. **Next, a leader will help you punch a hole in the top left corner and tie it together with yarn. When you're finished, take your Tell the Story Booklet home to help you remember how Jesus was tempted but never did wrong things.** Allow the kids to color their pictures, then help them put their pictures in order, punch a hole at the top, and tie yarn through the pictures to keep them together.



## Game: Temptation Floor

**SUPPLIES:** paper plates (2 per group), construction paper or carpet squares (2 per group, optional)

Use an open floor space so kids can navigate safely from one side of the room to the other.

**In God's big story today, we learned how Jesus resisted—or didn't give in to—temptation. We're going to play a game where we will try to stay away from temptation. Have kids line up on one side of the room. Set out two starting paper plates. These paper plates represent God's Word. Point to the paper plates. One at a time, you step on "God's Word" to get across the floor. You can't touch the floor because the floor is temptation! You'll step on one plate, then move the other plate to become your next stepping spot. Model how to do this for the kids. Then reset the paper plates. If you touch the floor, you go back to the start. If space allows, form extra lines so more kids can go at once. We can always stand on the truth of God's Word any time we are tempted to do something wrong.**