

### 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.

**Object Lesson: In the Desert**

**Activity: Find the Pictures**

**Worship**

**God's Big Story**

**Prayer and Blessing**

**Activity: Temptation Floor**

**Wonder@Home™**

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

## Object Lesson: In the Desert

**SUPPLIES:** kinetic sand, plastic container, toy vehicles (optional), toy people figures (optional), measuring cups (optional)

Before kids arrive, place kinetic sand inside a plastic container. You can also set toy vehicles, toy people figures, and measuring cups inside the container if they are available.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

**Welcome. I'm so happy you're here! Come see what we have today!**

Encourage kids to play in the kinetic sand by using their hands and possibly the provided toys (optional).

**We used our hands to play with sand. Today we'll learn that Jesus was in the sandy desert. And we'll learn that even though He could have done wrong things while He was there, He didn't.**

## Activity: Find the Pictures

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock (5 sheets, optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** God's Big Story Sheets

Print the God's Big Story Sheets. If you want, you can print them onto cardstock to make them sturdier. Hide the pictures around the room in easy, visible spots for toddlers to find.

**Today we'll talk about how Jesus was tempted to do wrong things but never did anything wrong. Let's play Find the Pictures!**

**I have hidden four pictures from God's big story around the room! Let's find them together!**

Guide the kids around the room to find the four pictures. Speak a simple truth about each found picture, "Good job! We live by God's Word alone!" Or "Hooray! You found it! We worship only God!" Or "Great work! We trust God!" Once all pictures have been found, collect them and set aside for God's Big Story later.

**These pictures show parts of our story for today. It's all about Jesus and how He never did anything wrong. Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS WAS TEMPTED AND NEVER SINNED.****

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

**JESUS**—Point up.

**WAS TEMPTED**—Hold both arms out in front of body.

**AND NEVER SINNED**—Hold both hands up like signal for "Stop."

## Worship

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Who Is Jesus? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

**Today we're learning that Jesus was tempted and never sinned. Jesus felt weak, but He never did wrong things! Let's sing about how Jesus made the way for us to be God's kids!**

Play songs from the [Who Is Jesus? Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, cardstock (5 sheets, optional)

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** God's Big Story Sheets, [God's Big Story Video](#)

**Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a time in Jesus' life when He was out in the desert. Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Jesus!**

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided.

If you didn't already, print the God's Big Story Sheets, and set them out.

Gather kids together. **Let's sit down.** Make sure everyone can see the pictures for God's big story. **Today in God's big story, Jesus is tempted three times, but He never sins. Tempted means thinking about doing wrong. Each time Jesus is tempted, He gives an answer.** Have the kids stand each time Jesus says a Bible verse, then sit back down throughout the story.



Hold up Picture 1. **Jesus went to the dusty desert. Jesus 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.**

**The enemy said to Jesus, "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 answered the enemy by saying a Bible verse (have kids stand): "Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4; also see Deuteronomy 8:3).** Have kids sit down.

Hold up Picture 2. **Next, Satan took Jesus to the 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): "Do not test the Lord your God" (Matthew 4:7; Deuteronomy 6:16).** Have kids sit down.

Hold up Picture 3. **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). Satan wanted Jesus to forget about God.**

**Jesus said another Bible verse (have kids stand): "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 4. **Then, Satan left. Satan lost because Jesus did not sin. 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.**

## Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. God, thank You for sending Jesus to make a way for our sins to be forgiven and for us to be Your kids! With Jesus' help, we can stand strong against temptation like Jesus did. 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.

**Blessing:** May God help you remember who you are—His much-loved kid! And may Jesus help you replace the enemy's lies with truth!

## Activity: Temptation Floor

**SUPPLIES:** construction paper (10 sheets), carpet squares (10, optional)

Use an open floor space so kids can navigate safely from one side of the room to the other. Make a construction paper trail from one side of the room to the other. Be sure the steps are the right size for kids to step from one to the next easily. You can also use carpet squares.

**In God's big story today, we learned how Jesus resisted—or didn't give into—temptation. We're going to play a game where we have to stay away from temptation.** Have kids line up on one side of the room. **These sheets of paper are like God's Word.** Point to the papers. **We'll step on "God's Word" to get across the floor. We can't touch the floor because the floor is temptation!** Have kids follow you across the paper trail from one side of the room to the other. Make sure kids know that it's OK if they step off a paper onto the floor. Help them back up onto the paper and remind them that God helps us.