

Alley SG—January 30th, 2022

Today's Bible Story: Exile (Jesus Tempted in the Desert) • *Luke 4:1-13* (Supporting: *Matthew 4:1-11*)

Today's Key Question: When is it hard to do the right thing?

Today's Bottom Line: Be ready to do the right thing.

Monthly Memory Verse: His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life. (2 Peter 1:3a NIV)

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, paper plates (2 per kid), markers

What You Do:

- Form equal teams of three or four kids.
- Give each team a Bible, markers, and two paper plates per kid.
- Invite teams to write and draw on each plate something related to the events in today's Bible story. They can look up the story in Luke 4:1-13 for idea.
- Direct teams to line up their plates face down and out of order.
- Tell teams to move to a set of plates that is not their own and stand with their feet behind two plates.
- Explain that at your signal they can turn the plates over and look at the two that are directly in front of them.
- Then they can place one foot on each plate and begin shuffling or "skating" each to its correct place in the order of events.
- Once they step on the plates, their feet must remain there until the plate is in its correct place.
- The first team to finish is the winner—if the order is correct.
- Encourage the kids to ask questions if there are parts of the story they don't understand.
- Help kids find common ground in the temptations Jesus faced and the ones they face.
 - In what ways was the devil trying to get Jesus to do something wrong?
 - How are those temptations similar to the ones you face? How was Jesus' temptation different?
 - What did Jesus do in response to the temptations He faced that you can do also?
 - When you want to do what's right but you're not sure what that is, how can you find out?
- Remind kids that Jesus was prepared. He used things he'd learned from what we now call the Old Testament to help him stand against temptation.
 - Encourage kids to remember that they can get advice for life in all kinds of places. The Bible is an incredible place to look if they want to know how God wants them to think and live.
 - God has also placed people in their life who can help them learn the difference between right and wrong. It could be a parent, trusted family member, teacher, small group leader, or a church leader. If they listen and learn, they'll be more prepared when temptation happens.
 - Challenge kids to keep learning what God has to say by asking questions about Scripture and talking about it with those who follow Jesus.

2. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, Solo cup (1 per Group, plus extra), coin (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Form two equal teams.
- Guide teams to sit or stand shoulder-to-shoulder, facing one another and about six feet apart.
- Place a Solo cup within reach of both kids who are at the end of the lines.
- Position yourself in front of the kids who are at the head of each team's line.
- Tell the two kids at the head of the lines to look at you and the rest of the kids to look at the Solo cup.
- Explain that you will **flip a coin** as the kids at the front of the line watch.
- When they see the coin land on HEADS, they should quickly clap their hands in front of them.

- As soon as the first kid in line claps, the process of clapping should continue down the line for the entire team of kids.
- When the last kid in line claps, they should then should grab the cup.
 - *Note: Keep flipping the coin even after it comes up HEADS so that the remaining kids don't accidentally see you stop and know that the hand clapping process has begun.*
- Repeat the game several times, letting kids rotate into different places in the line.
- After the game, invite kids to look up and read 2 Peter 1:3a. If they need help finding the verse, use the following tip:

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from 2 Peter. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (New) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. When they find 2 Peter explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to then find verses 3 in chapter 1.

- Ask:
 - Describe a person who lives a godly life.
 - What promise do you find in this verse?
 - What does that promise help you when it's hard to do what's right?
- Use the following to connect the activity with 2 Peter 1:3a.
 - In our game, a hand squeeze moved from one end of the line to the other—sort of like electricity runs through a wire.
 - God's power is even greater than electricity. It can give us what we need to do what's right. How do we get plugged into God's power?
 - If God's power gives us everything we need, why do we still mess up and not do what's right?
- Remind kids that a relationship with God begins when we believe in Jesus and receive the forgiveness He wants to give us when we invite Him to be our Savior. God's power to help us do what's right comes along and helps us as we follow Jesus.

3. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Pens, paper (1 piece per kid), "Thinking Cap" Page (1 per Group)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a piece of paper and a pen.
- As a group, brainstorm situations when it's hard for them to make a wise choice and do what's right. Some examples you're looking for are listed below.
 - When they're discouraged and feel like quitting
 - When they feel scared, worried, nervous
 - When they are tired, hungry, or in a bad mood
 - When pressured by others
 - When hurt or angry
 - When it isn't the popular decision
 - When they aren't sure what is the right choice
 - When they are angry or frustrated
 - When they have to hurry and make a quick decision
 - When they really want something they can't have
 - When they really want to do something they shouldn't or can't do
 - When they don't want to do something they should do
- Allow kids to write on their paper the situations they relate to the most.
- Show the kids how to fold their paper into a hat by following the instructions on the "Thinking Cap" Activity Page.
- You can lead them as a group or provide copies of the activity page for them to use.
- Choose a few examples kids shared earlier and invite them to "put on their thinking caps" to come up with ways to be ready to do the right thing when faced with a temptation.

- They don't have to literally put on the paper hats, but encourage them to each share some thoughts and ideas—particularly for the examples they wrote on the paper that's now the hat.
- Use some of the following questions to prompt discussion to get kids thinking:
 - How do you decide what is the right thing to do?
 - How does God show us what is the right thing to do?
 - How did Jesus respond to the devil's temptations?
 - Is there ever only one right response to a situation? Explain.
 - When you mess up and do the wrong thing, do you think God is mad at you? Why or why not?

4. Discussion Questions

- Do you think it was easier or harder for Jesus to resist temptation than it is for us? Explain.
- How important do you feel it is to resist temptation? Explain.
- How do you know when you're being tempted?
- How can you tell when you have made a wise choice?

5. Close in Prayer

What You Need: Note Cards and Pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a pen and a note card.
- Have each kid write down 3 to 5 temptations that distract them from being like Jesus.
 - *Examples could include: Disobeying their Parents, lying, stealing, cheating on a test, hanging around the wrong group of friends, talking bad about authority, etc.*
- Have kids then place their cards facedown and cover them while you pray...

“Jesus thank You that You resisted the devil’s temptations in the desert. Help us to always resist the temptations that come our way. Give us Your strength to know what to do, and to always choose to do the right thing. Help us to resist and avoid these temptations we wrote down today. We give them to You. We love you so much. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

- Have kids tear up their note cards and throw them away, so as to respect their privacy.