

City 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 Bottom Line: Be ready to do the right thing.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.*
2 Peter 1:3a (NirV)

1. Temptation Corners

What You Need: "Temptation Corners" Activity Pages (1 Set per Group)

What You Do:

- Place each picture in three separate locations on the floor throughout your space.
- Instruct the kids to stand in the middle of your space, away from the Papers.
- Tell the kids that you will count down from five, and they should quickly choose one of the corners displaying the locations Jesus was tempted—stone, mountaintop, top of the Temple—and run to it as you count.
- Once the kids make their choice, ask one of the review questions from the list below and prompt the kids standing in the corresponding location to work together to answer the question.
- After they answer, let them know if they got the answer correct. If they didn't, call on another corner to try to answer.
- Continue counting down again and prompting kids to move to a different corner.
- Play until all questions are answered.

Review Questions:

1. **(Stones)** Which of these locations is the very first place the devil decided to tempt Jesus in the desert? (*near the stones*)
2. **(Mountaintop)** What did the devil promise to give Jesus if Jesus chose to worship him? (*everything Jesus could see from the top of the mountain: palaces, treasures, all authority and glory in the world*)
3. **(Temple)** Where did the devil have Jesus stand at the Temple? (*the very top*)
4. **(Temple)** What did the devil tempt Jesus to do at the top of the Temple? (*jump off*)
5. **(Stones)** The devil told Jesus to turn the stones into food for Himself. What kind of food did the devil tell Jesus to make? (*bread*)
6. **(Mountaintop)** When Jesus was tempted by the devil on the mountaintop, he recited a verse saying, "Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should ____." (*Luke 4:8, NirV*). What is that missing word in the verse? (*serve*)
7. **(Temple)** When Jesus was at the top of the temple, the devil used a Bible verse to try to trick Jesus. Who did the devil say would protect Jesus if He made the choice to jump off of the Temple? (*angels*)
8. **(Stones)** When Jesus was super-hungry and being tempted by the devil, how did He respond? What did He say? (*He responded with a verse from the Bible. He said, "Man must not live only on bread." Luke 4:4, NirV*)
9. **(Temple)** Instead of being tricked to jump off of the Temple, Jesus replied with another Bible verse saying, "Do not ____ the Lord your God." (*Luke 4:12, NirV*) What is the missing word that we are not supposed to do to God? (*test*)

What You Say:

"No matter where or how Jesus was tempted, did you notice He always responded using the Bible to talk about the truth God has given us? The devil sometimes quoted from the Bible, too, but the difference was that Jesus knew God's heart. Jesus knows who His Father is and what His heart is like. Jesus could have made the choice to give into what He felt like He wanted in those challenging moments, but instead He made the right choice to trust His Father and not give into temptation. Because Jesus read the Scriptures, He knew what God wanted Him to do and He was ready to do the right thing.

“What has God given us to help us be ready to do the right thing? *(Allow time for kids to respond.)* Those are all great answers! God has given us wise people in our lives like parents, coaches, and teachers. If we are believers, He has given us the Holy Spirit to guide us to the right choices. God has also given us the Bible full of the same truths Jesus used to combat the devil’s temptations and to teach us who God is. When you find yourself needing to make the right choice, don’t forget that God has given you what you need to **[Bottom Line] Be ready to do the right thing.**”

2. Right Choice Remotes

Non-Reader Option highlighted below

What You Need: Bibles, “Memory Verse Controller” (1 per kid), markers, and pens

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- As a group, look up and read this month’s memory verse (2 Peter 1:3a) using the Bible navigation tips below.
- Recite the verse a few times as a group.
 - ***If you have non-readers, have them recite sections of the verse after you read it***
- Keep the Bibles open to use during the activity.
- Place the “Memory Verse Controller”, markers, and pens in the middle of the group.
- Invite the kids to design their own video game remotes for a toy or machine they dream up, or anything they imagine!
- Instruct the kids to decorate their controllers with markers, and write things that the buttons could do on the buttons of their remote controls.
 - Example: One Button could make them invisible, another they could fly, etc.
- Invite the kids to show off their remotes to the group when they finish.

Finding verses with 1st-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find 2 Peter in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find 2 Peter, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 2 Peter. Help the kids find the page. When they find 2 Peter, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 in chapter 1.

What You Say:

“We have such a creative group! I love all of the remote control designs! What our memory verse says is true. Just like our remotes give power to TVs and video games, God gives us even greater power to **[Bottom Line] be ready to do the right thing.** There may be times when facing temptation is extra hard for us. Maybe you want someone at school to like you, so you’re willing to do whatever that person asks—even if it puts you in a bad situation. Maybe you’re tired from a full day of basketball camp and don’t want to help clean up after dinner when your dad says it’s your turn.

“These are the moments when we need to press the ‘ON’ button to the power God has given us and power through the right decisions. **[Make it Personal] (Share about a time when it was hard for you to do the right thing but you were reminded of the power God has given you.)** This week, hang your remote controls somewhere you can be reminded of the power God has given you! That way, no matter what comes your way you can **[Bottom Line] Be ready to do the right thing.**”

3. Control Your Cards

Non-Reader Option highlighted below

What You Need: “Control Your Cards” (1-2 Sets per Group), “Control Your Cards Situation Strips” (1 Set per Group)

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid one trading card from the “Control Your Cards” Set.
- Make sure at least one of all six of the different cards are given out.
- Encourage the kids to discuss and show off their trading cards so they are familiar with all of the cards.
- Place the strips from the “Control Your Cards Situation Strips” Activity Page in the middle of the circle.
- Choose a kid to go first.
- Instruct the kid to draw a slip of paper from the middle of the circle.
- Direct the kid to read the scenario on the strip of paper and see if their card fits the scenario on the strip of paper.
 - **If needed, you can have kids draw a card and have you as the Leader read it for them.**
- If their card does not fit with the scenario, they can trade with another kid for a better solution.
- Take time to discuss each strip and possible trading card solution.
- Ask questions like:
 - When could this card come in handy throughout your week?
 - Have you ever been [tempted by your friends] or [wonder what God thinks about something] or [whatever applies to the card they drew]?
- Continue until all of the kids have had a chance to draw a slip of paper.
- If you have more cards than slips of paper, shuffle the strips after the first round and put them back in the middle of the group. Then play until every kid has had a chance to draw a scenario.

What You Say:

“Which card do you think could be most helpful for you this week? *(Allow time for answers and share what card you think is most helpful for your week.)*”

“Whether we are at school, around our friends in the neighborhood, or at home, there are plenty of opportunities to make the right choice or the wrong choice. Sometimes we can be tempted by our friends—like when they’re not doing the right thing, but we want to keep playing or hanging out with them. Other times we can be tempted by our own feelings—like when you don’t want to stop playing your game even though your dad has told you it’s time for dinner. These challenges can pop up at any time so that’s why it’s important to **[Bottom Line] Be ready to do the right thing.**”

“You can make yourselves ready by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you, by reading and knowing what God has to say in the Bible, and by reminding yourselves of these very truths on the cards you’ll take home with you. Don’t let temptation catch you off your game! Do the work ahead of time so you can **[Bottom Line] be ready to do the right thing.**”

4. Would You Rather?

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to stand in a circle.

- Read from the “Would You Rather” options below and invite the kids to choose which option they would rather take part in.
- Direct the kids to stay standing if they’d like to do option A and sit down if they would rather do option B.
- After each round, invite a couple of kids to explain why they made the choice they did.
- Continue until all of the “Would You Rather” questions are asked.

Would You Rather Questions:

1. Would you rather a) have to give up fruity candy (Skittles®, Starburst®, Twizzlers®, etc.) for the rest of your life or b) give up anything chocolate for the rest of your life?
2. Would you rather a) walk through a desert in a ski suit or b) walk through a snow storm in summer clothes?
3. Would you rather a) have the ability to fly or b) have the power to read people’s minds?
4. Would you rather: a) be a world-class athlete or b) be an award-winning actor?
5. Would you rather: a) be the funniest person or b) be the smartest person?
6. Would you rather: a) be able to talk to animals or b) speak five languages?
7. Would you rather: a) wear shoes that are too big or b) wear shoes too small?
8. Would you rather: a) have 100 spiders in your room or b) eat five spiders?
9. Would you rather: a) live on the moon or b) live under water?
10. Would you rather: a) have hands for feet or b) have feet for hands?

What You Say:

“Seeing the different choices you each made was fun! Hopefully you will never be in a position where you have to choose to never eat either fruity candy or chocolate again! But if you are, I think our game helped you get ready. “Today in Large Group, we learned how we have the power to make choices and what this means for us every day. Thankfully God can show us what the best choices are for our life.”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Cards from “Control Your Cards” Activity

What You Do:

- Instruct each kid to grab one card from their stack to focus on during prayer.
- Remind the kids that everyone has been tempted—even Jesus.
 - That’s why it’s important to pray so we can **[Bottom Line] be ready to do the right thing.**
 - We can always stop and pray whenever we need help from God.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You that You never leave us to face temptations and hard choices on our own. You’ve not only given us the Bible and the ability to have a conversation with You through prayer, but if we believe in You, You’ve also given us Your Holy Spirit to help us navigate the choices we have each and every day. Help us remember to lean on You so we can always **[Bottom Line] be ready to do the right thing.** We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen!