

## City LG—January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

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

**Today's Bottom Line:** Remembering what's true can help you make the wise choice.

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *The LORD gives wisdom. Knowledge and understanding come from his mouth. Proverbs 2:6 (NirV)*

### **WORSHIP: Fireblazin' and Zeal**

"Hello, everyone! I've got another incredible story to tell you today about Jesus. (*Hold up the Bible.*) It's like a classic story of good versus evil—the hero versus the villain!

"First, let's go back and look at everything that led up to this point in God's Big Story.

"In the beginning, God created everything—from the air we breathe to the stars we see in the sky. But when people turned away from God, the world was broken. Still, God had a plan to bless the world through one group of people: Abraham's family, the Israelites.

"Over hundreds of years, God spoke to the people through prophets about the Rescuer who was to come. When the time was right, God sent Jesus. As Jesus grew up, He grew in strength and wisdom. Then, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by His cousin John. When Jesus came out of the water, the Holy Spirit rested on Him like a dove. Then God spoke, saying . . .

*Open the Bible to Matthew 3:17 (NirV) and read.*

*"This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him."*

"Jesus was about 30 years old when John baptized Him. The people had heard that Jesus is God's Son because of what God said the day He was baptized. But Jesus didn't start gathering followers right away. He hadn't started teaching or doing miracles yet either.

"Instead, God's Spirit led Jesus to the desert. Jesus didn't eat any food for 40 days. He spent His time praying and talking to God. But He wasn't alone. The devil showed up to try to distract Him. Let's find out what happened next with the help of our Story Lab!"

**CG: Lesson Video (10:00)**

"Jesus knew God's Word from Scripture. We can find everything Jesus quoted in this story today in the Old Testament in the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) Jesus understood what God meant by those words, because He knew the truth of who His Father is. So when the devil tried to trick Jesus, He could stand strong instead of giving in.

"We can stand strong, too, if we remember what's true. Then we'll be able to live each day with God's wisdom. Let's learn our Bottom Line for today!"

**CG: Bottom Line Video (Runtime: 1:00)**

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line] “Remembering what’s true can help you make the wise choice.**

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us remember that.”

**PRAY:** “God, we know that You love us and that You’re always there to help us. It’s so good to know that we’re never really alone! Sometimes, we find ourselves in tough situations where we’re not sure what to do. But we know that You can help us **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.** Give us the strength to trust You so we can be wise, no matter what challenges we face in life. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“When Jesus faced the devil in the desert, it was a pretty epic battle. And by that, I mean a battle of words! Jesus remembered the truth from Scripture. So when the devil came looking for trouble, Jesus was able to stand firm and **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.**

“We can stand firm, too, if we learn what’s true from the Bible. Then when trouble comes, we can REMEMBER what’s true. With God’s Word and the knowledge that God gives us, we can live each day with wisdom.

**SLIDE: Bottom Line**

**[Bottom Line] “Remembering what’s true can help you make the wise choice.**

“One way we can remember what’s true is if we spend time with people who have followed God for a while. We can ask them questions, and they can help us find answers by looking in the Bible. They can help us remember what’s true: that God loves us, God is always with us, and Jesus came to be our Savior.

“It can also help if we talk with wise friends about what the wise choice would be. If our friends are following God, too, then they’ll be able to help us remember what’s true the next time we have a tough choice to make.”

**OFFERING TIME:**

We are giving our offering to our friends in Mexico through an organization called Vida Nueva Ministries. Unfortunately, many families in Mexico don’t have enough money for food or education. Vida Nueva Ministries is dedicated to overcoming poverty through education. Here is a picture of one of their amazing teachers.

**SLIDE: Teacher in Classroom**

Vida Nueva has built an entire set of schools in the city of Piedras Negras, where kids of all backgrounds can come and learn. They also receive meals and hear about Jesus. Isn’t that great? So, if you brought an offering today, you can bring it up now!