

MATTHEW 4

JESUS TEMPTED IN THE DESERT



Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: List of temptations, and Scriptures, pool noodles, stones, table, and chair/ladder
Age: Elementary

Read:

Read the story while having either the teachers or the kids reenacting everything you say. Make sure to plan ahead and set up stations. If your church has an outside space, set up the stones, a table to stand on (for the top of the church) and a ladder to "overlook the kingdoms." If you don't have an outside space, use tables and chairs or counters in your room as you see fit. Read each temptation and then have the teacher or children act it out. A different pair can reenact each one to involve more children

Explain:

Jesus never sinned when he was tempted. We, unfortunately all sin and mess up. But we can learn from Jesus' example for how he faced off against the temptation of Satan. In each response, Jesus turned away from the temptation with Scripture. Today, we're going to talk about some things that tempt us, and use Scripture to combat those!

Game: Whack-a-temptation

Set up four chairs with the seats facing out (allowing for the corners of the backs to touch, making a "hole" in the middle). Have the teachers crouch in the middle with the provided list of temptations. One at a time, have the teachers pop up and shout a temptation. The kids must read a Scripture that can combat that temptation, then they can whack the mole with the pool noodle.

Apply

Think about ways you're tempted. Write some down. Then, either in Sunday School or at home, talk about those with an adult and have them help you find verses to combat those temptations.

Memorize: Matthew 4:4

Close in Prayer

Temptations:

- "You should steal that candy!"
- "Just lie, no one needs to know you broke the vase!"
- "It's okay if you cheat on your homework just this one time!"
- "Man, I wish I had a cool house like he does!"
- "I can't believe she is wearing that, I'm going to go tell a friend about how bad she looks!"
- "Just punch your brother when he makes you mad, he deserves it!"
- "Your mom probably didn't mean it when she said no, what's the big deal anyway?"

Scripture:

- Exodus 20:15- You shall not steal
- Psalm 34:13 Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies.
- Proverbs 10:9 Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.
- Exodus 20:17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.
- John 13:34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
- Ephesians 4:26 In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry
- Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.