

KIDS DISCIPLESHIP

FEBRUARY 17

BIG IDEA

Jesus helps me when I'm tempted.

BIBLE

The Temptation of Jesus: Mark 1:12-13
Matthew 4:1-11

CONNECTION

*Using the CONVERSATION STARTERS in the ziploc bag as an icebreaker is an easy way to get started with one child, and as you are waiting on the other children to arrive.

*Use the clipboards in the blue backpacks to complete the WORD SEARCH. This is a great time filler that you can start and stop with throughout the night.

ACTIVITY | All Ears

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give 1 kid a stack of ten solo cups. Blindfold one child, who will have to build a tower based on the instructions from the team. The blindfolded kid will have to listen closely to their teammate to build their tower quickly, and (the rest of the team is not allowed to touch the cups to help, even if any of it falls). Let each child have a turn.
- **Do you know what being "tempted" means?** It's when you strongly want to do something you know you should not do.
- **Was it hard to build the tower without being able to see? How many of you that were blindfolded were tempted to just remove the blindfold?**
- **For the rest of you who were giving instructions, how many of you were tempted to just stack the tower yourselves?**
- **SAY:** Sometimes, it can be very difficult to follow directions, especially when we think we're right or we just really want something. Today's

Bible story is going to tell us what to do whenever we are tempted to do things our own way instead of God's way.

ACTIVITY | Tempted

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a skittle. Tell the kids that they are free to eat their candy now. *BUT* if they wait for 5 minutes without eating their candy, something good might happen. Then the leaders try to entice the kids to eat their candy – they can start eating some candy near the kids, tell them there's no guarantee the next thing is going to be better. (Any kid who hasn't eaten their candy at the end of 5 minutes gets a starburst.) We will provide the candy.
- **Was it hard to resist eating the candy? What made you decide to eat your candy? What helped you to not eat your candy?**

(OPTIONAL) OBJECT LESSON | To Swing or Not to Swing

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** -This activity is optional: The Leader will need to bring in a tennis racket and a tennisball for their Small Group in order to do this activity.
- **Who can tell me what this is?** That's right, it's a [racket]. How does it work? Yes, I have to swing it in order to hit the ball, like this (demonstrate).
- SAY: Now, let me see if I can hit this ball without swinging. (Have a kid throw the ball in your direction, but don't swing.) It doesn't work!
- SAY: This is similar to how temptation works. Someone or something can tempt us, but we are the ones who make the decision to either listen to temptation or do what is right. It's our choice to swing or not to swing.

SCRIPTURE | Mark 1:12-13; Matthew 4:1-11

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a large cookie to use as a prop at the front of the room as you tell the story. Read today's Scripture in segments while

talking to the kids, or get a volunteer to read for you.

- SAY: Doesn't this cookie look delicious? The only problem is, I promised myself that I was going to cut out sweets this week so I can be healthier. But it's so hard! So all of you have to help me. **DO NOT LET ME BE TEMPTED BY THIS COOKIE**, okay?
- SAY: Our story today actually talks about temptation and how Jesus dealt with being tempted. It starts by Jesus being led into the wilderness to be tempted by the "tempter," or the devil, who did not want Jesus to overcome this challenge.
- *[Read Mark 1:12-13.]* Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights. **Does anyone know what fasting means?** Jesus didn't eat anything at all for forty whole days!-
 - SAY: Jesus chose to pray and fast so that he could focus on spending time with God without any distractions. But at the end of forty days, Jesus was very hungry and that's when the devil came up to Jesus.
- *[Read Matthew 4:1-4.]* If I were Jesus, and I was that hungry, I might have turned the stones into bread like the devil told him to or – ooh! Maybe I would have turned it into a yummy cookie like this. Just one bite won't hurt . . . -
 - SAY: *(Pretend to eat the cookie then pause for the kids to react and tell you to stop)*. No, you're right. I need to be strong. Jesus had nothing against food, but he said that knowing and obeying God's words was more important!
- *[Read Matthew 4:5-7.]* After the devil's first try at tempting Jesus, he took Jesus up to the holy city and had Jesus stand on the highest point. The tempter did everything possible to get Jesus to give up or to show off. But once again, Jesus used God's words – the Bible – to resist it.-
 - SAY: It's like with this cookie. I could eat one cookie, right? It's no big deal. How is one cookie going to hurt me? So I'm just going to eat it, okay? *(Pretend to eat the cookie again.)* Okay okay. I hear you. Even if it doesn't seem like a big deal, I will be breaking the promise I made to myself if I eat this cookie.
- *[Read Matthew 4:8-10.]* The temptation didn't stop there. The devil told Jesus to look out over everything and offered it all to Jesus. But Jesus

did not back down or give in. Jesus spoke God's words back to the tempter and overcame temptation.-

- SAY: We are usually tempted with things that look good but are very bad for us. What if someone came up to me and said, if you eat this cookie, I'll give you an entire cookie factory? That sounds pretty tempting. But I would be breaking a promise to gain something that I probably shouldn't have – more sweets!
- *[Read Matthew 4:11.]* Jesus was strong. Every time the devil tried to tempt Jesus, Jesus responded by using what the Bible says about how we should live our lives. And because Jesus did not give into the devil's temptation, the devil ran away and angels came to take care of Jesus.-
 - SAY: I guess I can be strong against the temptation of this cookie. I don't need you, cookie! You have no power over me! *(Throw it in the trash can so the kids can see.)*

COUNTDOWN, The Lord's Prayer

*BEN ALLEN, SOUND TECH will play a 2 minute COUNTDOWN for everyone to come over and watch the VIDEO.

*The 5th graders will lead us in saying The Lord's Prayer together.

VIDEO | Challenge Accepted



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's teaching video.*

RESPONSE |

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids SHARE in the group something that they might be tempted to do, such as being mean to a sibling, sneaking a snack from the kitchen, lying about finishing homework, etc.-*
- **SAY:** Even though we might all be tempted by different things, temptation still happens to all of us. But Jesus is with us and helps us to overcome it. After all, if anyone would know, Jesus would know how to fight temptation – he's been through it, too!

ACTIVITY | Trust Your Guide

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Choose one kid from each group to be blindfolded. Their small group leader is going to help them kick a soccer ball into the goal while blindfolded. However, inform them that while trying to score a goal, the other kids will yell the wrong advice and try to confuse them. Encourage them to only listen to the voice of their small group leader. Each kid will have one minute to try to score, Set up some cones and have the blindfolded volunteer dribble the soccer ball around the cones before getting to the goal. The goal will be a taped off area close to your space. Let each kid try it.*
- **SAY:** There are a lot of voices we can listen to, but Jesus is always our guide and will help us when we are tempted.

SCRIPTURE: PSALMS 25: 1-10

*Read the scripture.

***SAY:** This passage reminds us that whenever we face temptation, we can follow the example of Jesus by remembering all the promises God has made to us. Jesus helps me when I am tempted!

REFLECTION | Who Are We Tempted By?

- SAY: Temptation happens to all of us. You don't have to share it out loud, but think about how you would answer this question: **Who are we tempted by?**
- SAY: Sometimes it's not even a single person. It might just be that you're in the wrong place. Or you're watching or listening to the wrong influences.
- SAY: Close your eyes and think of the people, places, or even things that are sources of temptation for you. Pray a silent prayer to Jesus, asking him to help you the next time you face any of these things again. Remind yourself: **Jesus helps me when I'm tempted.**

MEMORY VERSE |

- **INSTRUCTIONS:**-Using your memory verse in the ziploc bag, put it together *somewhere the kids can read it easily, and recite the verse together a few times. Then have kids spread out in a circle. Toss a-BEAN BAG-to the group, while saying the first word of the memory verse. Have them pass the bean bag among the group, and every time someone touches the bean bag, the group altogether has to say the next word in the memory verse. Have them try to get through the entire verse without letting the bean bag fall on the ground.*

LEADER PRAYER

- SAY: Jesus, thank You for knowing what it's like to be tempted. Our struggle with temptation is very real, but You are here to help us with them. We believe You can help us with everything at all times, including when we are tempted. Amen.

DISCUSSION

- **How long had Jesus been fasting in the wilderness?**
- **How many times did the devil tempt Jesus?**

- **When tempted, how did Jesus respond each time?**
- **Re-read Psalm 25:4-5. How can you follow the paths God has for you?**
- **What is a temptation that is hard to resist?**
- **What do you think you should do when you are tempted?**
- **How does Jesus help us when we are tempted?**

ACTIVITY | Game Plan

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the *WHITE BOARD*. Have them write some things that start with each letter of the word "TEMPTED" that might be tempting for them to do. They might not necessarily be "bad" things but they can be when done in excess or at times when they shouldn't. Feel free to give suggestions if they're stuck (e.g., TV, movies, Minecraft, donuts, pranks, teasing, eavesdrop, electronics, etc.)
- **SAY:** Here's our game plan for the week: When you feel yourself getting tempted, remember what we heard about today: "**Jesus helps me when I'm T-E-M-P-T-E-D!**"
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JOURNAL TIME

1. Write in your Journal - *JESUS HELPS ME WHEN I AM TEMPTED!*
2. Write: Make an acrostic using the letters of "TEMPTED" to create their "game plan" for what they can do to overcome temptation (e.g., "Talk to God, Eagerly read the Bible, Make time for God, Pray, Thank God for strength, etc.)
3. Write out the Memory Verse: 1 John 5:5 ESV
4. Go around the Small Group and ask for PRAYER REQUESTS. You start. Write the Prayer Requests down. Pray for the Requests.
5. Using your Laminated Sign, practice reading and saying THE LORD'S PRAYER together.

CLEAN UP/PICK-UP

*At 7:20pm, please stop and clean up your space. Store your CARTS along the wall under the basketball hoop. Please return the WHITE CHAIRS if you used one.-

*At 7:25pm, walk your Small Group down the stairs quickly and quietly to the JESUS MURAL to sit.

*Leaders, at this time, if you have kids who have Leader Parents, the kids can go to them.

*Leaders, you may take your child(ren) and leave. Thank you and we'll see you next week!

*7:30pm I will stay with the children, and call names for PICK-UP.

MEMORY VERSE | I John 5:5 (ESV)

"Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?"