

LESSON PLAN

JESUS IS TEMPTED

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-14

Lesson Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:17 - "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

Lesson Aim: Defeat Satan by the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, like Jesus did.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes)

KEY (for Attention): Strangers can be bad people. Maybe your parents have told you to be careful around strangers. They may have told you not to take candy from strangers, not to let strangers in the house when they are not home, and not to get in a car with strangers. Some children are even told not to answer the door when their parents are not home. Why do your parents want you to be very careful around strangers? (Allow them to respond.) The reason your parents want you to be so careful around strangers is that there are bad people in the world. They are your enemies and they would harm you if you are not alert. You need to be careful so bad strangers do not harm you.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us how we need to watch out for another enemy. Since we cannot see him, we have to know how he works and how He can hurt us. Who do you think this enemy is? (Yes, it is Satan.) He will tell you that you are not a child of God, if you happen to sin, even though you do not want to sin and have received Jesus to save you from your sins. What should you do to protect yourself? You need to take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, to defeat him, when he tells you such a thing. Do not listen to Satan, but listen to God's Word. It is a mighty sword against Satan. When you listen to God, you will have the helmet of salvation to protect your mind from Satan's lies. God's Word says you are a child of God when you receive Jesus as your Savior (Jn 1:12). It also says that God gives you eternal life when you have the Son. This is how you can know that you have eternal life (1Jn 5:11-13). Do not let Satan's lies hurt you. He also will try to hurt you by tempting you to sin against God. But you can defeat his temptations by using "the sword of the Spirit," which is God's Word. When you depend on the Word of God for victory, Satan will be defeated.

Explanation of difficult words and phrases:

"Helmet" – steel "cap" placed on the head to protect it

"Salvation" – being saved from your sins and from Hell; being born into God's family

"Sword" – long pointed steel blade with a handle on one end that was used in fighting wars

"Spirit" – Holy Spirit, the third divine person, who is exactly the same as God the Father and Son

"Word of God" – the Bible

SEE (for Apperception and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Our lesson for today will show us how Jesus defeated Satan by using the Word of God.

I. Temptation in the Wilderness - Luke 4:1-4

After Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River, He was tested to show that He was able to defeat Satan. The Holy Spirit told Him to go into the wilderness where He would fast (eat no food) for forty days. When He was very hungry and physically weak, Satan came to Him and said, "If you are really the Son of God command these stones to become bread." Since Jesus Christ had created all things before He became a man, He had the power to turn the stones into bread and it would have given Him food to eat. What was wrong with doing that? Jesus was to do what His Father told Him to do, not what Satan was tempting Him to do. If Jesus obeyed what Satan was tempting him to do, it would be sin. Did Jesus win over Satan's strong temptation? (Yes) Jesus did not yield to his temptation. Instead, He quoted a verse from the Bible: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Dt 8:3). He told Satan that it was more important for Him to obey the word of His Father than it was to obey the desire of His body. A fitting word from the Bible is all it took to stop Satan's temptation, because it is "the sword of the Spirit."

WE: We will be tempted by Satan when we are weak and want something very much. Satan may tempt us to steal it and he will show you a way to do it. If you want a good grade on a test, Satan may tempt you to cheat. We must not let Satan defeat us. How? We need to follow Jesus' example and take a fitting verse from the Bible, which is "the sword of the Spirit," to defeat Satan. In order for us to do this, we need

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to memorize God's Word, so we will have a good hold on "the sword of the Spirit." Just like any soldier in the army, we must know our weapons and how to use them. We must know God's Word so that we can use it skillfully and that will defeat Satan.

II. Temptation on a High Mountain - Luke 4:5-8

After the first temptation, Satan took Jesus up into a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. Satan then promised Jesus that he would give all of these kingdoms to Him, if He would fall down and worship him. This temptation started with an appeal to the eyes of Jesus. Satan showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. Then he offered these kingdoms to Christ right now. Could Satan give these kingdoms to Jesus? The Bible tells us that Satan is now the god of this world (2 Cor 3:5-6). And Jesus called him "the prince of this world" three times (Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). So Satan does have temporary power over these kingdoms now. In the future God promised to take this power away from him and give it to His Son. This would happen sometime after His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave. This event is still in the future. Sometimes it takes a long time for God to keep His promises. So the temptation for Christ was to receive these kingdoms immediately. Then He would not have to wait for His Father to give them to Him some unknown time in the future. Should He receive the kingdoms from Satan now or wait to receive them from His Father later? That was a test of Jesus' readiness to wait for His Father gift of the kingdoms. Finally Satan said that Jesus had to fall down and worship him to receive these kingdoms. This was a test of His love and loyalty to His Father. How did Jesus handle this temptation from Satan? Once again He took "the sword of the Spirit," God's Word, to defeat him. Jesus said, "Get behind Me, Satan," and then He recited a verse from Deuteronomy, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve." (Dt 6:13). When Jesus said that, He rejected the kingdom offer and Satan was defeated once again by the Word of God.

WE: We know Satan will tempt us by what we see with our eyes. He makes sinful products appealing to our eyes. Do not fasten your eyes on sinful things, lest we be drawn into sin.. Satan will also tempt us by promising to give us what we want right now rather than waiting for God's time to receive it. Do not be deceived by his promises. He is the father of lies. Finally, Satan wants us to worship him rather than God. How would we do that? We obey the one that we worship. Who do you obey?

III. Temptation at the Temple - Luke 4:9-13

To tempt Jesus a third time, Satan brought Jesus to Jerusalem and set Him on a high place of the temple. This time he tried to get Jesus to sin by quoting a verse out of the Bible. He said, "If you are really the Son of God, cast yourself down from here because it says in the Bible that your angels will protect you and will not allow you to get hurt." Satan knows the Bible and he will misuse it so that he might cause a person to sin. Jesus once again defeated Satan by correctly using the Bible. He quoted Deut 6:16 which says, "You shall not tempt the Lord your God." After this Satan departed from Christ and left Him alone for a while.

WE: Satan also may tempt us by using a friend or someone that we really respect. Just as Jesus was tempted by Satan when he quoted Scripture, he may tempt us to sin through something that we least expect. Satan is tricky (1 Pet 5:8), so we must be careful that we do not get caught in one of his traps. We must be sure to use God's Word when we are tempted to sin and Satan will be defeated.

BE (for Action): In today's lesson you have learned how Jesus won the victory over Satan. How did He defeat Satan? (He used the Word of God.) How can you get the victory over Satan? (Use the Word of God.) This week I want you to memorize our memory verse and be prepared to quote it to the class next Sunday. How many will try to do that? Every time the devil tries to get you to do something wrong this week, quote this verse. Let us pray and ask God to give us the victory over Satan this week and teach us how to have victory every week.