

# Jesus Chooses

## Bible Verse

You are my Son, whom I dearly love. (Luke 3:22)

## Did You Know?

**T**emptation is a part of the human experience. The temptation story reminds us of Jesus' continued humanity. The way in which Jesus in human form dealt with temptation can be an example for us.

It is apparent Jesus has been raised in the Jewish faith. All of his responses to his tempter in the wilderness come from Scripture. When tempted to turn stones into bread, Jesus replies with words from Deuteronomy 8:3: "People won't live only by bread." When Jesus is tempted with power, offered all the kingdoms of the world, he responds with words based on Deuteronomy 6:13: "You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him."

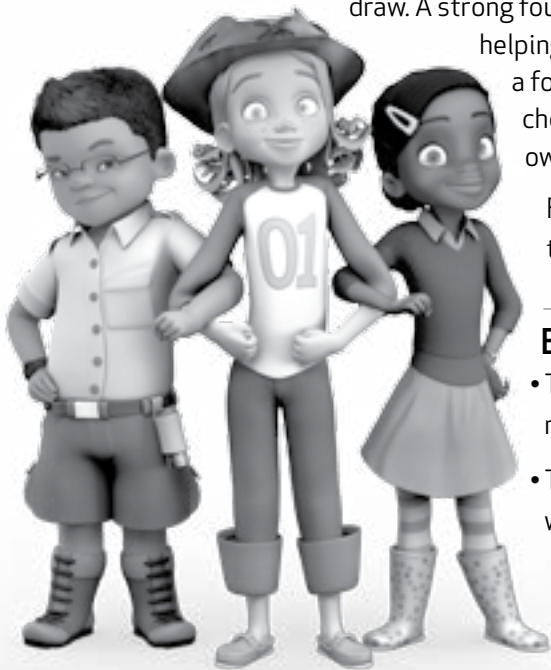
The tempter attempts to beat Jesus at the Scripture game. In tempting Jesus to throw himself off the highest point in the temple, the tempter quotes Psalm 91:11-12. Jesus does not deny these words, but points out that it is also written in Deuteronomy 6:16: "Don't test the Lord your God."

Are we then to go around quoting Scripture in order to resist temptation? While this might work in some situations, to do so entirely would be missing the point. Jesus had studied Scripture. He had been raised in the faith and was therefore prepared when faced with temptation. He had a solid foundation and understanding upon which to draw. A strong foundation on the Word of God is what you are helping build as you teach Sunday school. Such a foundation will help the children make good choices when faced with temptation in their own lives.

For more Bible background information, go to: [DeepBlueKids.com](http://DeepBlueKids.com).

## Exploration Points

- The children will experience how Jesus resisted temptation.
- The children will learn to depend on God when faced with temptation.



## Bible Story


Luke 4:1-13

## Anchor Point

God chose Jesus; Jesus chose God.

## Your Lesson

- Welcome
- God Rocks
- Jesus' Answer
- Did Jesus Say It?
- Jesus Chooses
- Voice From Heaven
- Worship
- Younger Elementary Small Group
- Older Elementary Small Group

 Requires preparation.



## Jump In!

The following activities are planned to introduce today's theme. Be sure that there is a leader to welcome and direct the kids to the interest groups of their choice.

An adult will be needed at each group to lead the activity with the children.

### WELCOME

- Greet each parent and child as they arrive.
- Play music to make your room cheerful.

### GOD ROCKS (ART ACTIVITY)

**Supplies:** rocks (large enough to write on and decorate), crayons, paper plates, baking sheet, oven mitts, oven

- ⊗ Place rocks on a baking sheet in a 300-degree oven for at least 10 minutes.
  - Give each child a paper plate.
  - Have each child write his or her name on the plate.

**SAY:** I am going to put a hot rock on your paper plate. Do not touch the rock. If you need to move the rock, do so by moving the plate.

- Place a hot rock on each child's paper plate.
- Show the children how to use the crayons to decorate their rocks. When the crayon comes in contact with the hot rock, the crayon will begin to melt onto the rock.
- Have each child use a crayon to write "God" on his or her rock.
- Encourage each child to decorate her or his rock.

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, Jesus is asked to turn rocks into bread. Jesus refuses and says people need more than bread. We need God more than we need bread. This "God rock" will help you remember to keep God in your life.

- Let the rocks cool on the paper plates until the end of class.

### JESUS' ANSWER (LOGICAL ACTIVITY)

**Supplies:** Bibles, "Jesus' Answer" Handout, pencils

- ⊗ Photocopy "Jesus' Answer" for each child.
  - Give each child a copy of "Jesus' Answer" and a pencil.
  - Encourage each child to complete the puzzle.
  - Have the children look up Luke 4:4 to check their answers.

### ≈ TIP ≈

Most children will be able to remember to only touch the plate and not the rock. Have oven mitts available for children who might have difficulty remembering not to touch the rock.



**Answer to "Jesus' Answer":** People won't live only by bread.

## DID JESUS SAY IT? (MOVEMENT ACTIVITY)

**Supplies:** two posterboard sheets, markers, tape

✪ On a piece of posterboard, write the words, "Jesus said it!" On another piece of posterboard, write the words, "I don't think so." Tape the two posterboards on opposite sides of the room.

**SAY:** Today we are going to play a game about things Jesus said.

- Point out the two posterboards to the children.

**SAY:** I am going to read you some sayings. After each saying, I will ask you to move to one side of the room or the other. If you think Jesus said the words I read, move to the sign that says, "Jesus said it!" If you don't think Jesus said the words, move to the sign that says, "I don't think so." I will then tell you whether Jesus said the words. If you chose correctly, you can pat yourself on the back. If you chose incorrectly, I will tell you the cost of your mistake.

- Read the following sayings and encourage the children to move to one side of the room or the other. When you reveal the correct answer, have the children who have chosen incorrectly pay a price such as five jumping jacks, three toe touches, and so forth.
- \* Love your enemies and pray for those who harass you. (Jesus said it! Matthew 5:44)
- \* If someone borrows money, don't let them out of your sight. (I don't think so.)
- \* You are the salt of the earth. (Jesus said it! Matthew 5:13)
- \* Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. (Jesus said it! John 13:34)
- \* You are the pepper in the stew of life. (I don't think so.)
- \* You cannot serve God and wealth. (Jesus said it! Luke 16:13)
- \* God sent me to point out your mistakes. (I don't think so.)
- \* When you pray, make sure everyone around you knows. (I don't think so.)
- \* Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. (Jesus said it! Matthew 9:12)
- \* Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations. (Jesus said it! Matthew 28:19)
- \* God has a limited amount of love. Make sure you get in line. (I don't think so.)
- \* Be careful that you don't practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. (Jesus said it! Matthew 6:1)
- \* Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. (Jesus said it! Matthew 22:21)
- \* If you have two coats, keep one in storage so you are prepared. (I don't think so.)
- \* Watch out! Guard yourself against all kinds of greed. (Jesus said it! Luke 12:15)
- \* Go to church every Sunday. (I don't think so.)
- \* Who among you by worrying can add a single moment to your life? (Jesus said it! Luke 12:25)


**ASK:** How do we learn about the things Jesus said? (*by reading the Bible*)

# Dive Deeper

Bring the children together to experience the Bible story and worship. Use a bell to alert the children it is Large Group Time.

## JESUS CHOOSES

**Supplies:** "Jesus Chooses" Handout

 Photocopy "Jesus Chooses" for each child to take home.

**ASK:** What is temptation? (*wanting to do something, especially something you shouldn't do, or wanting something you don't need*)

**SAY:** We have all been tempted at one time or another to do something we shouldn't do. Our Bible story today is about a time when Jesus was tempted.

**ASK:** Do you think today's Bible story is from the Old Testament or the New Testament? (*Stories of Jesus are found in the New Testament.*)

**SAY:** Our story today is from the Gospel of Luke.


- Read the Bible story from "Jesus Chooses."

**ASK:** Where did the words Jesus used to respond to the tempter come from? (*Scripture*)

**SAY:** Jesus used the lessons he had been taught about God to help him do the right thing. Jesus chose to follow God. We can choose to live as God wants us to live.

## VOICE FROM HEAVEN

**Supplies:** Luke 3:22 Bible Verse Poster; Luke 3:22 Sign Language Handout

 Familiarize yourself with the sign language for the Bible verse so you can teach it to the children.

- Show the Bible verse poster.
- Encourage the children to read the verse together with you.

**ASK:** Who is speaking in this verse? (*God*) Who is God's Son? (*Jesus*)

- Show the children the signs for the Bible verse from American Sign Language.

**SAY:** Today we are going to sign and say the Bible verse eight times. Each time we say the verse, we will stress a different word. The first time we say the verse, we will put the emphasis on the first word. The second time we say the verse, we will put the emphasis on the second word. We will continue until we have stressed each word in the verse.

- Encourage the children to sign and say the Bible verse with you eight times, emphasizing a different word each time.

## WORSHIP

- Play familiar worship music and encourage the children to sing and move along with the music.

**SAY:** Today we have heard about Jesus being tempted. Jesus said no to temptation three times. Right now we are going to practice saying no. I am going to ask you some questions. In response to each question, you will answer, "No! No way! Absolutely not!"

- Lead the children in the following litany.  
**Leader:** Will you forget about God?  
**All:** No! No way! Absolutely not!  
**Leader:** Will you forget what Jesus taught?  
**All:** No! No way! Absolutely not!  
**Leader:** Will you forget how Jesus loved?  
**All:** No! No way! Absolutely not!  
**Leader:** Will you refuse to share God's love?  
**All:** No! No way! Absolutely not!  
**Leader:** Will you forget how Jesus served?  
**All:** No! No way! Absolutely not!  
**Leader:** Will you refuse to help one another?  
**All:** No! No way! Absolutely not!  
**Leader:** Let's pray. Loving God, life is full of temptation. Help us to be strong and follow you. When temptation comes our way, help us to say...  
**All:** No! No way! Absolutely not!  
**Leader:** Amen.
- Dismiss the children to their small groups.




# Grow Stronger

Divide the children into small groups based on age levels. Keep the groups small, with a maximum of ten children in each group. You may need to have more than one of each group.

## YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

**Supplies:** “Sayings of Jesus” Handout, construction paper, scissors, markers, gluesticks

 Photocopy “Sayings of Jesus” for each child.

**ASK:** What was our Bible story about today? (*Jesus being tempted*) What was the tempter trying to get Jesus to do? (*turn stones into bread, worship the tempter, throw himself off the temple so angels would rescue him*) I am guessing you have not faced those particular temptations, but all of us are tempted from time to time. Can you think of a time when you were tempted to do something you shouldn't do?

- Allow the children an opportunity to share, if they are willing, remembering that sharing is optional.

**ASK:** We are not perfect, and sometimes we do make mistakes and give in to temptation. The good news is God still loves us. We can try to do better the next time we are tempted. Another good thing is that we do not have to face temptation alone. We can help one another be strong. Who are people you can ask for help when you are tempted to do something wrong?

- Help the children think of people they can trust to ask for help.

**SAY:** Since we know we will face temptation, it is good to be prepared and have a plan. Of course, we can always ask for God's help too—anytime, anywhere. Where did Jesus get the words he used to resist temptation? (*from Scripture*) We also rely on Scripture to help us know how to live. Let's take a look at some words from Scripture.

- Give each child a copy of “Sayings of Jesus.”

**SAY:** These are all sayings of Jesus that we find in Scripture.

- Read the sayings of Jesus aloud or have volunteers read the sayings.
- Have each child write the words, “Jesus said,” on a piece of construction paper.
- Encourage each child to cut out the speech bubbles and glue them on his or her paper.

**SAY:** When we choose to follow God, we choose to live by Jesus' words.

**PRAY:** God, thank you for stories about Jesus. Thank you for the teachings of Jesus that help us know how to live. Help us to be strong when we face temptation and choose to follow you. Amen.

## OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP

### Supplies: "Sayings of Jesus" Handout

✂ Photocopy "Sayings of Jesus" for each child.

**ASK:** What do you remember about our Bible story today?

- Encourage the children to work together to retell the Bible story.

**SAY:** I am guessing you have not faced the same temptations Jesus did, but all of us are tempted from time to time. Every day each one of us must try to resist temptation and do what God wants us to do. I am going to read you a scenario. Listen carefully, because then I am going to ask you some questions.

- Read the following scenario to the children.  
You are at the grocery store with three of your friends buying an after-school snack. You are having fun thinking up unusual food combinations such as broccoli and chocolate sauce. You finally decide to buy a bag of popcorn and some M&M's®. While you are checking out, one of your friends dares you to put a pack of gum in your pocket without paying for it.

**ASK:** What are some possible things you could do in this situation? Which action or actions would be the easiest? Which action or actions would be consistent with God's laws? What might help you do the right thing?

- Give each child a copy of "Sayings of Jesus."

**SAY:** Jesus used words from Scripture to resist temptation. We may not go around quoting Scripture, but the Bible can remind us of how God wants us to live. Here are some sayings of Jesus that remind us how to live.

- Allow the children time to read "Sayings of Jesus."

**ASK:** Would any of these sayings help you know how to act in the scenario we just discussed? *(There is no right or wrong answer. Different sayings may be useful to different people.)*

**SAY:** We are not perfect like Jesus, and sometimes we do make mistakes and give in to temptation. The good news is God still loves us. We can try to do better the next time we are tempted.

**PRAY:** God, thank you for loving us even when we make mistakes. Thank you for the stories and sayings of Jesus that help us know how you want us to live. Help us to have the courage to say no when we are tempted to do something wrong. Amen.

# Jesus Chooses

After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit led him into the wilderness. After forty days, when Jesus was really hungry, the tempter appeared to him and said, "You are God's Son. Turn these stones into bread and you will have something to eat."

Jesus replied, "It is written in the scriptures, 'People won't live only by bread.'"

Then the tempter led him to a high place and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. The tempter told Jesus, "If you will worship me, I will give you power over all of these kingdoms."

Jesus answered, "It is written in the scriptures, 'You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

Then the tempter took Jesus to the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem. The tempter said, "Throw yourself down from here. You are God's Son. God will send angels to protect you. It is written in the scriptures, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone.'"

Jesus answered the tempter, "It is also written in the scriptures, 'Don't test the Lord your God.'"

The tempter left Jesus then.

*(Based on Luke 4:1-13.)*



# Jesus' Answer

After Jesus' baptism, he went into the wilderness by himself. After he had been there a long time, the tempter came and tried to get Jesus to turn rocks into bread. Jesus was hungry, but he resisted temptation and answered the tempter with Scripture. Find out what Jesus said by solving the puzzle. One letter of the alphabet is missing from each line. Write the missing letter to the right of each line. When you are finished, read down to discover Jesus' answer. Look up Luke 4:4 in your Bible to check your answer.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
K L P Q R S T A B C H I J U V W X Y Z M N O D F G \_\_\_\_\_  
A B I J K L M X Y Z C D E F G H Q R S T U N P V W \_\_\_\_\_  
C W X H I J K L M N O Q R Y Z A B E F G S T U D V \_\_\_\_\_  
R F G H I N O P Q J K U V W C D E X Y Z A M S T B \_\_\_\_\_  
C D N A B H I O P Q R S Y F G T U V W Z X J K L M \_\_\_\_\_

B G H E F L M U V X I J A K C D Y Z P Q R N O S T \_\_\_\_\_  
I J Q R S G E F M H Y Z K L T U V A B W X C D N P \_\_\_\_\_  
X Y Z I J K L G A B S T U O C D V W H P Q R M E F \_\_\_\_\_  
P U V W L M Z G A B N O X Y C D Q E F R S I J K H \_\_\_\_\_

Y Z F G O P A S T U V B C D E Q R W K M N H I J X \_\_\_\_\_  
A L B C Q R S M N O T U V W X D E F G H J K P Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
H I J P A B K L O C F G Q R S T M W X Y D E Z N U \_\_\_\_\_  
D B V W C H I J K L M Q R S T F U N O P X Y G A Z \_\_\_\_\_

B I J K L C D M N P A E F G H Q W S U V T X Y Z R \_\_\_\_\_  
A U V W D E Z L M O P Q H B C I J K R S X Y T F G \_\_\_\_\_  
J K Q R S A N O P T B M F G U V C D E H I W Z X Y \_\_\_\_\_  
A L M R S B K T N O P Q Z I U V W C D X J E F G H \_\_\_\_\_

H I J W X M N A C D E Y F O P Q R K L S U V G T Z \_\_\_\_\_  
B C L M W A U V D E O P Q X Z N J K R S T F G H I \_\_\_\_\_

K P Q H E I J X S F Y Z L M T U V A C D N O R W G \_\_\_\_\_  
J N D U V H I T O P Q S A E F G K L M B C W X Z Y \_\_\_\_\_  
G B P Q A N T U H C D S K L O I J V W F R X Y M Z \_\_\_\_\_  
H R S T N O B V E F G P X Y Z M C D U J K I W L Q \_\_\_\_\_  
A E F B Y Z C G U V L M R S J W H K N T I O P Q X \_\_\_\_\_

# Sayings of Jesus

**You are the light of the world... let your light shine.**  
(Matthew 5:14,16)

**Give to those who ask, and don't refuse those who wish to borrow from you.** (Matthew 5:42)

**Love your enemies and pray for those who harass you.**  
(Matthew 5:44)

**Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other.**  
(John 13:34)

**You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, and with all your mind.**  
(Matthew 22:37)

**Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.**  
(Luke 6:37)

**Watch out! Guard yourself against all kinds of greed.**  
(Luke 12:15)

**Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you.**  
(Matthew 7:12)

**You cannot serve God and wealth.**  
(Luke 16:13)

**You must love your neighbor as you love yourself.**  
(Matthew 22:39)

**Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations.**  
(Matthew 28:19)

**Allow the children to come to me. Don't forbid them, because God's kingdom belongs to people like these children.**  
(Mark 10:14)

**God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him won't perish but will have eternal life.**  
(John 3:16)

**You are my Son,  
whom I dearly love.**

**Luke 3:22**



Photo: Shutterstock® © 2015 Abingdon Press

# Luke 3:22

You are my Son, whom I dearly love.



**You**  
Point out with your  
index finger.



**Son**  
Bring your thumb  
and extended fingers  
of your right hand  
to the right side of  
your forehead as if  
you are grasping an  
imaginary hat brim.  
Then rest the right  
hand in the left elbow  
and swing your arms  
as if you are rocking  
a baby.



**Love**  
Cross your fists at the  
wrists and press them  
to your heart.