

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 5 • Unit 7 • Week 2

JESUS' TEMPTATION

OBJECTIVE:

To learn about Satan's temptation of Jesus Christ and how we must guard against Satan today.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Have students do activity "Words for Satan" (see end of lesson).

Answers are as follows:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| lion | 8 |
| Beelzebub | 1 |
| Satan | 5 |
| devil | 2 |
| evil one | 3 |
| liar | 6 |
| serpent | 4 |
| accuser | 7 |

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: Can you remember a time when you were really, really hungry? Probably many of you have done some fasting on the Day of Atonement. When you go without food and water how do you feel?

Say: We feel this way when we just go one day without food and water. But Jesus Christ did something far more difficult. He fasted not for one day or three days but for 40 days and 40 nights!

Do: Read Matthew 4:1-2.

Explain: God gave Him special strength because of His faith in His Father. Also, Jesus was able to fast

for this long period of time because He was in extraordinarily good shape. He was a carpenter's son, so He was used to hard work and He also ate good healthy food.

Say: Jesus went out into a desolate area to fast, where there were no people, but many wild animals. Fortunately God sent His angels to watch over Jesus.

Ask: Do you know why Jesus fasted?

Explain: Fasting is an excellent way to become closer to God and to get to know Him better. Fasting helps us accomplish this because:

- Going without food and water reminds us that we are human.
- We can pray without the distraction of taking time to eat.
- We feel more humble at that time and God sees we are hungering for His way and truth.

Jesus wanted to be especially close to God His Father, because He knew God was going to allow Him to be tempted by Satan. This would give Jesus an opportunity to overcome Satan and qualify Him to replace Satan as the ruler of the earth. He would also set an example to show us how, with His help, we can overcome Satan the same way.

Say: In the Bible God's Word is pictured as a sword. It is the perfect weapon to use to fight against temptation. Let's notice how Jesus used the Bible to thwart Satan's attempts to cause Him to sin. Satan tempted Jesus in three different ways.

Do: Read Matthew 4:3-4.

Say: Satan's first temptation attempted to get Jesus to prove that He was the Messiah by turning rocks into bread. Satan knew how hungry Jesus would be. Satan attacks us where we are most vulnerable. For example, if it was really important to a person to get an A on a test, Satan may tempt that person to cheat.

But Jesus met the temptation with the sword of God's Word. "Man shall not live by bread alone," He replied, "but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." This was a quote from Deuteronomy 8:3.

Now, there is nothing wrong with eating and drinking. After all God created food to be enjoyed. Jesus was showing that we must remember that the Bible is like spiritual food that we need every day just as we need physical food. Physical food keeps our physical body alive, but spiritual food is what keeps us close to God.

Do: Read Matthew 4:5-7.

Ask: What do we learn from Satan's second temptation?

Say: Satan took Jesus into Jerusalem all the way up to the highest part of the temple. Satan then

goaded Jesus. He said, "If you are the Son of God [in other words, I don't really believe that you are], show that you are not afraid to jump down from this high building. After all, God says in the Bible that He will send angels to catch you."

Here Satan misquoted scripture. Satan uses the Bible, but he causes people to put their own meanings into the Bible, instead of just reading what it says like any other book. This is how he misleads many.

The scripture Satan quoted was in Psalm 91:11-12, but he used the verses incorrectly. Satan wanted Jesus to make God prove that He would send His angels to catch Jesus if He jumped. Jesus explained that we should not tell God He has to prove to us He is God by a miracle. We should believe Him and not try to make Him prove Himself.

Jesus correctly quoted Scripture when He said we should not test God.

Do: Read Matthew 4:8-10.

Finally Satan took Jesus up to a high mountain. There he told Jesus that he could have all the kingdoms of the world right then if He would fall down and worship Satan.

Explain: After Jesus Christ gave His life for us by suffering on the stake, He was resurrected and went back to His Father's throne in heaven. There God gave Him authority to rule all the kingdoms of this earth when He returns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. What Satan was telling Jesus was that He didn't have to go through all that suffering. "Just worship me," Satan said, "and you can have it all nice and easy." Just take a shortcut.

Satan tries to get us to take shortcuts, too. Back to our student who wants good grades really bad—he can go about it the right way, by working hard and studying or he can take a shortcut and cheat.

But Jesus told Satan that He would not worship him, "Worship God and only Him," said Jesus.

Say: After Satan failed with this third temptation, Jesus told Satan with great authority to go away. And Satan had to leave.

Ask: Let's turn to 2 Corinthians 4:4. How does this passage describe Satan?

Say: Satan is the god of this age, the god of this world, which explains why there is so much suffering. By overcoming Satan, Jesus has qualified to replace him as ruler over the earth and He is going to return shortly to replace Satan and rule in love and peace.

By overcoming Satan, Jesus also showed us how we can overcome Satan when he tempts us to do evil. He shows us that we need to remember important verses in the Bible and put

them in our mind so we won't do wrong. For example, we can be tempted to lie sometimes; but when we are, we can remember the scripture that says that God hates a lying tongue and be determined to tell the truth.

We can resist Satan as it says in James 4:7, and he will flee from us as he fled from Jesus.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Make copies of the word puzzle (see end of lesson).

MUSIC:

Sing the following song or your choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

"Input, Output"

Input, output, what goes in is what comes out.
Input, output, that is what it's all about.
Input, output, your mind is a computer whose
Input, output daily you must choose.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Peter 5:8 "Your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour."

Words for Satan

Directions: Listed below are some words we find in the Bible describing Satan and the verses where we find them. Put the correct words in the blanks. Check in your Bible if you're not sure.

1. "This fellow does not cast out demons except by _____, the ruler of the demons" (Matthew 12:24).
2. You are of your father the _____, and the desires of your father you want to do" (John 8:44).
3. "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the _____" (John 17:15).
4. "Now the _____ was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made" (Genesis 3:1).
5. "So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and _____" (Revelation 12:9).
6. "...When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a _____ and the father of it" (John 8:44).
7. "...For the _____ of our brethren...has been cast down" (Revelation 12:10).
8. "...Your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring _____ ..." (1 Peter 5:8).

Word Search

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below (note, each blank represents one letter). Then find these words in the word search below. Words can be found forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

1. To go without food and water is to _ _ _ _.
2. Jesus was led into the wilderness to be _ _ _ _ _ by the devil.
3. Jesus fasted _ _ _ _ _ days.
4. God's Word is pictured as this type of weapon: _ _ _ _ _.
5. Satan told Jesus to turn rocks into _ _ _ _ _.
6. Satan attacks us where we are most weak or _ _ _ _ _.
7. Spirit beings who help God are _ _ _ _ _.
8. To resist doing wrong is to _ _ _ _ _.
9. A way that requires less work or time is a _ _ _ _ _.
10. "You shall _ _ _ _ _ the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve."
11. Jesus quoted _ _ _ _ _ to Satan.
12. We should live by every word that proceeds from the _ _ _ _ _ of God.

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

THE POINT:

To learn about Satan's temptation of Jesus Christ and how we must guard against Satan today.

ASK ME...

- What weapon did Jesus use in facing Satan's temptations?
- How is Satan like a lion?
- How can we be on guard against the devil?
- What are some other names for Satan the devil?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Go to the library and find a book on lions. Read it together and see other ways Satan is like a lion. Talk about how Christ is like a lion.

Rent or watch a video on lions together.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Peter 5:8 "Your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour."