

Year 3, NT PreK Lesson 2: Tempting the King

Lesson Highlights:

- ✓ **Scripture References:** Matthew 4:1-11
- ✓ **Teaching Point:** John announces that the new kingdom means a new way of living.
- ✓ **Unit Memory Verse:** *Matthew 4:17* – From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
- ✓ **Alternate Verse:** *Matthew 4:4* – Man does not live on bread alone
- ✓ **ABC Verse:** *1 Thessalonians 5:19* – Quench not the Spirit.

Lesson

Overview

We change our focus from the first kings of Israel to the only true King of kings this spring. We saw men pick men...we saw men fall...and we saw a kingdom on earth begin to crumble. But though Israel is now ruled by others, they did have one thing right. God’s people are a part of a kingdom...not of this world, but from heaven come to earth to show the way for God’s people to live now as they will forever with Him. To do that, we need to know about this new kingdom and what is necessary for those who claim to be a part of it. There is much at stake as John baptizes those who repent from the ways of the world...and also baptizes Jesus who stands for us all.

Story

From the very beginning...back when God made the earth and the moon and man, God has been wanting us know that we can trust Him. He is our Father. That’s actually why we have families...to show us what it means that God is our Father. That means we can trust Him to give to us good things. But sometimes it’s really, really hard to believe Him.

Every time we do something wrong, it’s because we start to think that maybe God won’t help us...won’t give us good things. But this whole time, God’s been wanting us all to know that He will give us good things...and He will take care of us...and one day, He will give us everything when we go to be with Him. God becomes our Father when we trust in Jesus as our Savior. The problem is that His people like us haven’t trust Him. We get new things for Christmas and we’re so happy, aren’t we? Until our brother or sister wants to play with them...or until we get tired of them. Then we just want more and more for ourselves. We lie and steal...we are selfish and want more and more. We are just like people have always been with our Father. We want what we want...and we want it NOW. In our story about Jesus today we get to find out if He would be like all the rest of us...or if He would trust God.

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All of that happened one day when God lead Jesus out into a place called a wilderness. That means that there aren't a lot of plants or water or food or anything. There was nothing for Jesus to eat at all! He didn't eat that day...or the next...or the next...for 40 days! He must have been really hungry, right? Well, right then, Satan...who was a really bad angel...came to Jesus and told Him that if He was really God's son then He should be really powerful and be able to make His own food. He should just take the rocks and turn them into bread.

Well, do you think Jesus could do it? (yep) Sure, He could. But He didn't! Even though He was really hungry, He knew that He could trust God to give Him food when He needed it. He told Satan that people don't live just on bread, but they really live when they trust in God.

Next, Satan took Jesus and like fly Him to this big city, to a tall building in the city. He told Jesus that He should just jump off of the building...because you know what? If He really was God's son then God wouldn't let anything happen to Him. Angels would catch Him...God had promised. Well, Jesus knew that it was a trick. He knew that Satan really was telling Jesus that He couldn't trust God to take care of Him. He told Satan that He knew that you weren't supposed to try to trick God into taking care of you. You should just trust Him.

Then finally, Satan took Jesus to a tall mountain and showed Him all of the people and their buildings and everything. Satan told Jesus that he would give it all to Him if He would just bow down and worship Satan. Should Jesus have done that? Should He have bowed down and worshipped Satan? (no) No, of course not. And Jesus knew that. He told Satan to get away from Him. He would never bow down and worship anyone but God. Finally, Satan left Jesus alone.

Jesus had won! He passed the test! He didn't do like the rest of us...He believed His Father. He believed that God would take care of Him and give Him what He needed...and He would take care of Him...and that one day, God would give Him everything good. After Satan left, angels came from the Father and took care of Jesus. They gave Him food and helped Him. Jesus proved that He deserved to be the King of all kings. He really is the Son of God. Because He's really king, next week we'll start learning from Him what this kingdom is like.

But what we can think about is whether we will follow Jesus or believe Satan. Jesus showed us that we really can trust God. He will take care of His people. We don't need to worry about our lives. We need to believe that God knows best and will give us good things at just the right time. While we are here, we must look to Him alone for this provision, protection and inheritance. Only then will our lives look like Jesus' life...only then will God look like the good Father that He really is. Let's pray.

Prayer Time

Before you pray, allow the kids time to share with you things that are happening in their lives. Be sure you write these down with their names for you to pray for as the week goes along. Ask individuals about how things went with the things they mentioned the previous week. As the leader, begin by opening and thanking God for this lesson:

- Thank Jesus for winning the battle against the temptations of Satan...and showing us the way that we can defeat Him, too.
- Ask Him to help us to believe that because He won that battle, we have victory too through His perfect record which is ours if we are His.

Pray for any specific requests named either by praying yourself or by opening it up to those who said they would pray.

Suggested Follow-up Activities

Teachers are free to choose the activities that they feel are best for their group. The idea is that as the children work and play, remind them of the truths they just learned.

Scripture Memory: Figure out your reward system for memorizing the Scriptures provided in this section. Give the children several opportunities to tell it to you either when they first arrive or at the end of class. **If using the ABC verses, a color page is provided as a take home page.**

Activity: Do You Trust Me? – Remind the kids that today we learned about the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness followed by the temptations from Satan. During those, Jesus had to decide whether He would trust in God as His Father for His provision, protection and inheritance. He did what no one else has ever done. He believed God's Word, that what God would give is better than anything He could get for Himself.

There are a couple of different ideas for how you can use your time in the classroom as an object lesson for your kids about temptation. For the **youngest kids**, you might try to demonstrate what temptation is. You can do this by placing small pieces of loose candy such as M&Ms or Skittles at their places at the table while you have them work on a coloring page. Ask them not to touch it or eat it. While they are working, have all of the grown-ups busy off to the side somewhere or have all of the step outside the classroom briefly. When you feel like enough time has passed, come back in and ask the kids how many of them have been thinking about eating the candy. Ask whether it was harder when they were left alone since no one could see them if they took one. Tell them that this is what temptation is...the feeling inside that rises up to try to talk you into doing what you know you should not do. Continue on with the story.

Craft: Bread Puzzle – Remind the kids that today we learned about the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness followed by the temptations from Satan. During those, Jesus had to decide whether He would trust in God as His Father for His provision, protection and inheritance. He did what no one else has ever done. He believed God's Word, that what God would give is better than anything He could get for Himself.

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Give each of the kids the craft page copied on brown cardstock. Have them cut it out. You can do a few things after this. They can simply place them in plastic baggies for carrying home. You can also let them practice it as their memory verse by having them turn them over and shuffle them and then race to see who can get it together first. They could also glue the pieces to another piece of paper. For younger kids, cut out the pieces for them. Consider cutting them into larger pieces for the youngest kids and allow them to glue them in place.

Materials: copies of craft pages; scissors; plastic baggies

Craft: Bread Loaf – Remind the kids that today we learned about the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness followed by the temptations from Satan. During those, Jesus had to decide whether He would trust in God as His Father for His provision, protection and inheritance. He did what no one else has ever done, believed God’s Word which told Him that whatever God would give is better than anything He could get for Himself.

Give each of the kids the craft page copied on brown cardstock. Have them cut out the slices and stack them in order. Allow them to hole punch all of them in one corner and provide either yarn, key rings, etc. so that they can thread them in order. Practice the verse with them as you talk through the importance of the Word of God in meeting temptation in our lives. Younger children will need the pictures cut out prior to class.

Materials: copies of the craft pages; scissors; hole punches; yarn, key rings, etc.

Craft: 3 for 3 (Older Kids) – Remind the kids that today we learned about the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness followed by the temptations from Satan. During those, Jesus had to decide whether He would trust in God as His Father for His provision, protection and inheritance. He did what no one else has ever done, believed God’s Word which told Him that whatever God would give is better than anything He could get for Himself.

Give each of the kids both of the craft pages. Talk to them about how important the Word is when faced with temptation. Knowing the truth about God and leaning on that instead of our own understanding will give us the help we need from God’s Spirit to withstand the schemes of Satan which haven’t changed for us today. Have them cut out the various parts of the grid and match them up by gluing them in place.

Materials: craft pages; scissors; stick glue