

Bible Story 28: JESUS' BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION

SCRIPTURE: **Baptism:** Matthew 3:1-6,13-17; Mark 1:9-11
 Temptation: Matthew 4:1-11
 Hebrews 2:18
 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

MEMORY VERSE: Hebrews 2:18

BIBLE STORY:

When Jesus was thirty years old, He left Nazareth in Galilee and went to the River Jordan. Jesus saw John the Baptist and asked him to baptize Him. He did. As Jesus came out of the water, the sky opened and the Spirit of God came down above Him, in the form of a dove. From heaven the voice of God said, ***“You are my dear Son in whom I am well pleased.”***

Then the Holy Spirit took Jesus into the desert. He stayed there praying for forty days and nights, without eating. He was very hungry. Satan tempted Him. (*Temptation is having a desire to do something which is contrary or against the teachings in the Scriptures, the Bible.*) Jesus was tempted to do wrong things. These were His temptations:

	VERSES AND LOCATION	SATAN TEMPTS JESUS	THE ANSWERS OF JESUS
1	<i>Matthew 4:1-4</i> Location: the desert	After praying and not eating for forty days, Jesus was very hungry. Then Satan said, <i>“If you are the Son of God, turn these rocks into bread.”</i>	Jesus answered, <i>“The Holy Scripture says people do not live only by bread, but lives on God’s Word.”</i>
2	<i>Matthew 4:5-7</i> Location: the highest part of the Temple in Jerusalem	Satan took Jesus to the highest part of the Temple and said, <i>“If you are the Son of God, jump off the top of the Temple, because the Word of God says, ‘God will command his angels to protect you.’”</i>	Jesus answered, <i>“The Holy Scripture says not to test the Lord your God.”</i>
3	<i>Matthew 4:8-10</i> Location: a very high mountain top	Satan took Jesus to a very high mountain top and showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their greatness. Then Satan said, <i>“If you bow down and worship me, I will give all of this to you.”</i>	Jesus answered, <i>“Leave, Satan! The Holy Scripture says to worship only the Lord your God, and only serve Him.”</i>

Jesus resisted each temptation. He answered each temptation by verses from the Holy Scripture. Satan left Him for a period of time, and the angels came and took care of Jesus (Matthew 4:11; Luke 4:13). Then Jesus returned to Galilee.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. When someone accepts and believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, Lord and Savior, follow the example of Jesus and be baptized.
2. When tempted to do something wrong, say, "No!" Turn away and leave quickly the area where you are being tempted.
3. Following the example of Jesus, memorize Bible verses that will help you face problems and help you to resist doing something wrong.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who was John the Baptist?
2. How old was Jesus when He went to see John the Baptist at the Jordan River?
3. What was John the Baptist doing? What did Jesus ask him to do?
4. As Jesus was baptized, the Spirit of the Lord came down upon Him in the form of a dove. What did God say?
5. Where did Jesus go after His baptism?
6. How long was Jesus in the desert? What was Jesus doing in the desert? Because He did not eat for forty days and nights, how was Jesus physically?
7. What was the first temptation of Jesus? What did Jesus do?
8. What was the second temptation of Jesus? What did Jesus do?
9. What was the third temptation of Jesus? What did Jesus do?
10. What did Jesus do to resist temptation?
11. What are some temptations that we face?
12. What are some ways that we can resist temptations?

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

TELL THE STORY (OPTIONS):

- **Option 1:** Tell the Bible story.
- **Option 2:** Use drama. Tell the story of baptizing Jesus as if you were John the Baptist.
Suggestion: Dress up like John the Baptist.
Suggestion: Play the sound of a waterfall, etc. as you tell the story. (Use sounds off a CD or a sound machine used for sleeping.)
- **Option 3:** Use drama. Tell the story of Jesus being tempted. One person stands to the side, narrating the unspoken parts. One person is Jesus, speaking His words. Another person is hidden and speaks the part of Satan tempting Jesus. **Suggestion:** Use costumes, like a long scarf over a shoulder.

GAME: "SPIN AND TELL"

- Beforehand, cut pictures from magazines and newspapers of people doing wrong things.
- Sit in a circle. On the floor in the center, place an empty soda bottle and, on the side, place the stacked pictures. Spin the bottle. Whenever the front of the soda bottle stops in front of a person, he picks up a picture and talks about it. Discuss ways on how to avoid the situation of doing something wrong. Then spin the bottle again and continue the game.

GAME: "APPLIE BITE"

- **Option 1:** If inside, hang apples in various areas of the room. Each child must try to eat an apple without touching it with his hands. Within a certain period, whoever has eaten the most of his apple, wins.
- **Option 2:** If outside, put apples in a large container of water. May use separate individual containers of water, placing an apple in each container. Let each person dunk for apples.

BAPTISTRY:

- Get permission beforehand to go and tell the Bible story at your church's baptistry. Look at the baptistry closely; walk inside it, if possible.
- **Option 1:** Tell the Bible story by the baptistry. Afterwards explain who can be baptized, how a person is baptized and the meaning of being baptized.
- **Option 2:** If possible, perhaps your pastor or a member of your church's staff can meet with you at the baptistry. After showing the baptistry, he tells the Bible story, explains who can be baptized, how a person is baptized and the meaning of being baptized.

PICNIC:

- Have a picnic at a park, lake, river or in your backyard. Tell the Bible story.

SHOW A VIDEO:

- If you have a video of someone being baptized, especially a video of someone in the group, show it and talk about it. (Do so with the permission from the person who was baptized.)

BIBLE READING - *Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17; 4:1-11; Mark 1:9-11; Hebrews 2:18; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13*

1 st	2 rd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
Matthew 3:1-6	Matthew 3:13-17	Mark 1:9-11	Matthew 4:1-4	Matthew 4:5-7	Matthew 4:8-11	Hb 2:18; 1 Co 10:12-13