

LESSON AIM: To show that Jesus identifies with us when we are tested and tempted because He Himself was tested and tempted.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Luke 4:1-13, Hebrews 4:15

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- 1) How many miracles did Jesus do? (See John 21:25)
- 2) What did a group of guys do to get their friend to Jesus?
- 3) What did Jesus say to the paralyzed man?
- 4) Review last week's verse; have students explain it in their own words.

INTRODUCTION:

- Our faith in Jesus will be tested.
- Sometimes these tests are quite difficult but there are important reasons for the testing of our faith.
- Tests tell us how we are doing. Tests make us stronger. Tests prove what we really are.
- The testing of Jesus proves that He is the righteous, Holy Son of God.

LESSON:

Before a trained soldier goes into a real battle, what do you think is part of his training? (Allow students to answer) He or she is tested. What about before a pilot is allowed to fly an airplane? He or she is tested. Before an airline is allowed to fly paying passengers? It is tested, sometimes many, many times to make sure! Before a surgeon is allowed to operate on someone? He is tested. What about before you can get a drivers license? That's right, you must be tested. Testing is a part of the human experience. All of us will be tested. Did you know that even Jesus was tested? It was a tough test, because the one who tested Him was his arch-enemy. Who do you think that was? (*Satan*) And do you think he wanted Jesus to pass the test? No! He desperately wanted Him to fail!

If Jesus was God in the Flesh, then why should He have to be tested? Jesus was tested for our sake, and for the devil's sake. Jesus was, and is, God but as a man He depended totally upon His heavenly Father and upon the empowering of the Holy Spirit. (*Students may have questions about the trinity if this hasn't been addressed yet. Very basic analogies could include the 3 parts of an egg which are all one egg; or water can be in 3 forms, but is still water, etc*) Jesus lived His earthly life the same way we are to live our lives: by doing exactly what the Father wanted Him to do and by doing the Father's will by the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember, everything that Jesus did is an example of how we are to live our lives!

Satan had defeated the first man in the Garden of Eden and now he his bent on destroying all of God's creation. All of us share and have reaped the bitter fruit of Adam's defeat: we are born with a sin nature and all of our lives we are in bondage to sin. Jesus came so that Adam's defeat would be reversed. He didn't face Satan in a beautiful garden, but in a rough, hot, and parched wilderness. Now we need to remember that Satan and Jesus were not equals. Jesus was the all knowing, all powerful eternal Son of God. By Him were all things created. Satan was a mere creature--probably the most powerful creature ever created--but a creature nonetheless. He isn't God and he doesn't have anywhere near the power or wisdom that God has. But Jesus didn't face him in the wilderness as God,

he faced him as a man—a very hungry man who hadn't eaten anything for forty days! Jesus didn't rely on His own divine power to defeat Satan; He relied on the power of the Holy Spirit. Let's find out what happened.

Have the students read Luke 4:1-13.

How did Jesus answer Satan each time? By using the “Sword of the Spirit” which is the Word of God; He answered every temptation with a scripture! How do we defeat Satan when he tempts us? The same way Jesus did, by answering the temptation with a powerful thrust of the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. In **Psalm 119** it says: *"Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee (God)."* This is why we memorize scripture, so that it is there when we need it!

Jesus wants us to know that when we are tempted and tested He knows what it is like—He's been there. He is with us when we are tested and as we look to Him and call out to Him, He helps us and leads us through the time of testing.

The Bible also tells us that “Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world.” (**I John 4:4**) We do NOT need to be afraid of Satan! Jesus defeated Him on the cross, and we need to remind Satan of that when he starts bothering us. Jesus is greater than Satan, He is God; Satan is not.

Have students read aloud their memory verse (or both verses below if you have time) and reiterate how POWERFUL the word of God is! Have them picture a sharp sword that slices through anything that is in its way—that is what the scriptures are, a sharp sword that we can cut through the lies and temptations of Satan with.

Let's pray and ask God to help us when we are tempted. Let's ask Him to help us to memorize His Word so that we are prepared when Satan comes after us. Let's thank Him for what He did for us on the cross when He forever defeated Satan! We have nothing to fear!

MEMORY VERSE: *(Every year):*

**“For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword.”
Hebrews 4:12a**