



ELEMENTARY

Week of September 6

Bible Story: Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11)

The Jesus Storybook Bible: Let's go! (208 – 209)

BIG Idea: Jesus was tempted but did not sin, so we can turn to God to give us strength.

Bible Story Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mc-x4qKY6Wc>

THE BIG BIBLE STORY

A couple of weeks ago we learned how Jesus was baptized. After all this happened, God sent Jesus into the wilderness where he fasted for 40 days. How do you think Jesus felt? Jesus was hungry! Suddenly Satan appeared to Jesus and tried to tempt him. He said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Do you think Jesus was tempted to do that? Let's read from God's Word to find out what Jesus did.

Read Matthew 4:4 *"Jesus answered, 'It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

Instead of giving into the temptation to turn the stones into bread, Jesus remembered what God's Word says. In the Old Testament book of Deuteronomy we can read about how the Israelites were wandering in the desert and they were really concerned about what they were going to eat. In fact they cared more about food than their God who provided it! In reality, we need God more than we need anything else in the world because it's God Himself who sustains us. That's what Jesus remembered when Satan tempted Him, and knowing this truth allowed Jesus to resist temptation. **Jesus faced temptation but did not sin.** Satan wasn't finished with Jesus! Next he took Jesus to Jerusalem and had him stand at the very top of the temple. Satan said that if Jesus was truly the Son of God he could jump from the top of the temple and wouldn't be hurt. "God will take care of you." Satan told him. "It even says in God's Word that God will send angels to take care of you. They will lift up your hands and you won't even hit your foot on a stone."

Woah, now Satan was using scripture too! He was quoting from the Old Testament book of Psalms and tried to tempt Jesus to test God's protection. After all if Jesus was the Son of God, wouldn't God save him?

Read Matthew 4:7 *"Jesus answered him, 'It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"* You would think by this time Satan would just give up, but he still wasn't finished trying to get Jesus to sin. This time Satan took Jesus up to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. "Look at all this!" Satan said. "All of this will be yours if you would only bow down and worship me!"

Read Matthew 4:10 *"Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"* For a third time Jesus quoted scripture to Satan, reminding him of the truth of God's Word. **Jesus faced temptation but did not sin.** Did you know that this was not the only time that Jesus was tempted? Three years later Jesus was on the cross. People passed by him and shouted up to him, "Save yourself! If you are really the Son of God, you could come down from that cross!" Jesus certainly could have saved himself because He truly was (and is) God. Jesus didn't deserve to die on the cross because He was absolutely perfect. **Jesus faced temptation but did not sin.**

BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

- What three ways did Satan tempt Jesus?
- What are some ways you are tempted?
- When you are tempted by something, how do you (or should you) deal with the temptation?

BIG BIBLE STORY ACTIVITIES

Journal: Write about the times you have been tempted. Ask God to help you if these temptations come up again.

Art: Draw a comic strip of the scenes in the desert where Jesus is being tempted by Satan.