

WEEK 3

OBEDIENCE IS A CHOICE FAITH HELPS US REJECT TEMPTATION

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

For all that is in the world, the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life, is not from the Father but is from the world. 1 John 2:16

KEY IDEAS

1. Temptation is not sin until we act on it.
2. God does not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear.
3. Temptation can always be overcome by God's Word and His Spirit in us.

KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 3
Luke 4:1-13

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

temptation is not sin and can always be defeated by God's Word so that it doesn't become sin.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

thankful that God does not allow Satan to tempt us beyond what we are able to withstand and He will always help us when we ask.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

use the Word of God and the scriptures they have memorized to fight against temptations.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to learn more scripture to fight temptation.

INTRODUCTION

Temptation has existed since the Garden of Eden because Satan's goal is to see us fail. Temptation does not come from God, but He does allow it so that through the testing and trial, our faith may be strengthened. God knows that we need Him, and when we pass a temptation trial, it draws us closer to Him, deepening our relationship and dependence. Temptation itself is not sin, but if we act on it, it becomes sin. Each time we reject the temptations we face we get better at rejecting sin. Jesus Himself was tempted and gives us an example of how we should respond to it. We have everything we need in God's Word and by His Spirit to stand up to the enemy.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin the lesson by holding up a \$10 bill. Ask the children what they would do if that \$10 bill was theirs? How would they spend it? Placing the bill face up on the table in front of them. Instruct them not to touch it or let it distract them from the lesson. Explain that temptation is anything that moves us to sin. Temptation itself is not sin. For example, it's not a sin to be tempted to take that \$10 bill, but if you were to act on it after being instructed not to, you would be sinning by disobedience and by coveting what is not yours and selfishly taking it for yourself.

KEY IDEAS

Read Genesis 3 and Luke 4:1-13 and use the following points for guided discussion.

- Temptation is not sin until we act on it. (Hebrews 4:15)
 - Where does temptation come from? Our sin nature desires the things that are not of God and Satan knows our weaknesses. Temptation comes from our own sin nature (James 1:14) and from Satan who wants to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8, Eph. 6:12).
 - Does God tempt us? God the Father can neither be tempted by evil nor cause us to be tempted by it because He is holy and perfect. However, He can use the temptations we face to test and purify our faith so that we can grow and have a deeper fellowship with Him when we place our trust in Him and choose Him over our sin. (James 1:13)
- God does not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear. (1 Corinthians 10:13)
 - If God allows us to be tempted, what is His purpose in it? Primarily, to prove and strengthen our faith and bring us closer to the Lord (James 1:3).
 - How does God help us when we struggle? He sympathizes with our struggle (Heb. 4:15), He reminds us that He has already defeated Satan and death (Romans 5:8), He provides us a way out (1 Cor. 10:13)
- Temptation can always be overcome by God's Word and His Spirit in us.
 - How can we be prepared for temptations to come? Live by the Spirit in obedience (Galatians 5:16), keep our eyes fixed on the things of God (Colossians 3:2), wear the full armor of God (Eph. 6), be watchful and keep your eyes open for it (1 Peter 5:8), do not put yourself in situations where you will be tempted (Proverbs 4:14-15), know that your flesh and your spirit can be at odds (Matt. 26:41)
 - How should we respond when temptation does come? How do we resist? Pray (Mark 14:38), know Scripture and use it the way that Jesus did (Psalm 119:11), flee from it (Matthew 5:29), surround yourself with your church community who will help you stay accountable and pray with you.

Activity

Draw two vertical lines on the whiteboard to form 3 columns. Label each column as follows: Lust of Flesh, Lust of Eyes, Pride of Life. Ask the children to give examples of each type of temptation. Explain that these are the ways we are tempted and these are the ways even Jesus was tempted. For example, Jesus was tempted with lust of the flesh when Satan told Him to turn the stones to bread because Jesus wanted to satisfy His stomach (physical). Jesus was tempted by the lust of the eyes when Satan told Him that he would give Jesus everything His eye could see if He would just worship Satan (visual). Jesus was tempted by pride when Satan told Him to prove that He was God by throwing Himself down (spiritual). In all these things Jesus would've been sinning because He knew this was not what God the Father had planned for Him, but He didn't give in. How did Jesus respond to each of the temptations? Jesus was able to stand against Satan by responding with Scripture and truth.

Prayer

Thank God that He understands our struggles and gives us a way out when we are tempted. Ask God to help us be prepared for the trials and temptations when they come and be faithful to stand firm on His Word and not fulfill the desires of our flesh.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse 1 John 2:16.

Play a game of “Make Me Laugh”. Take turns with your child trying not to laugh. You can do silly things to get the person to laugh without touching them or tickling them. If the person laughs, it ends their turn. Talk about how difficult it is not to laugh when you really want to. It is difficult to resist temptation, but we can when we have God’s help.

DISCUSSION

- **What would have been the consequences for us if Jesus had listened to Satan?**
If Jesus had listened to Satan and sinned, there would be no means for us to be saved. Jesus could only pay the penalty for our sin on the cross because He was the perfect, sinless sacrifice.
- **What would be the consequences for you if you did give in to your own temptations?**
- **What are some ideas of how we can combat our temptation?**
 - Pray and ask God to give you a way out.
 - Memorize scripture and use it like Jesus did.
 - Ask your family and friends for support and accountability.

PRAYER

Thank God that He offers us a way out of our temptation and gives us His word to help us stay on guard against Satan’s schemes. Ask God to help you stand against temptation by trusting in Him and using His word as a shield and protection.