

Sunday Challenge for Children's Groups

Week 1 (21st February)

challenge

Lent 1.

- What does it mean to be tempted? Discuss the things we are tempted to do, as adults, as children.
- Read/ tell the story, maybe using a powerpoint or display of pictures.
(Use Google images to find e.g. pictures of Jesus baptism, the Judean desert, bread, Jerusalem temple, world from space)

Luke 4.1-13: The Temptations.

*(Lion Children's Bibles all include the story of the Temptation).
Or you could use this version.*

At his baptism Jesus had heard God's amazing voice; he had felt the gentle touch of God's Holy Dove. He was full of excitement and hope; he knew that this was the special time when he would begin God's work. But first he wanted to be quiet and alone. He went to the desert where the skies were big, the sun was hot and he was all alone.

As the days drew on Jesus began to think about how he could prove his power as God's Son. He knew the thoughts were wrong- they were not thoughts from God.

"Maybe" he thought, "I could turn these stones into bread" and then he remembered the words of Scripture.

"It is not just bread that we live on-live on my words as well."

Then he thought of all the kingdoms in the world-maybe he could be king of them all, a king with riches and power. The devil, who was whispering in his ear said, "You can do this if you worship me".

Then he remembered the words of God *"Worship the Lord your God and serve only him."*

The devil would not give up. "Come with me to Jerusalem", he whispered. "Throw yourself off of the top of the temple, but tell your angels to save you. Then everyone would know how powerful you are. "The devil even used words from the Scriptures to try and persuade Jesus.

But he said, "No. The Scripture says, *Do not try and test God.* "

The devil gave up, the wicked thoughts disappeared, Jesus was exhausted but he knew that God's love was all around him.

Wonder:

- What it would feel like to be in the desert
- What does it mean to live on God's word?
- What things Jesus was planning to do for God?

Prayer:

Place laminated pictures (use Google) or show powerpoint. Build a Jenga tower in the middle of the circle. Light the prayer candle. The tower reminds us of the big cities. Ask the children to think of people who are powerful leaders-in the world, in the UK, in their schools, churches etc. Invite them to think about times when they have had to be responsible-think about how difficult it is- how we want to do our best, and perhaps frightened of disappointing. Its like that for adults too!

Lord Jesus, help all people who have to make big decisions, and those who lead others.

We pray for our Prime Minister, for our teachers, for our priests and ministers.

Help us to know that we can be strong for God even when we feel frightened that we will make mistakes.

Amen

Activities: Cover a small cardboard box and decorate it as a big important building. Have these words printed out to stick around the base.

I can be strong with God's love inside me.

