God’s Big Story: Jesus Gets Tempted

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| scripture focus |
| Matthew 4:1-22; Mark 1:12-20; Luke 4:1-13, 5:1-11 |

big picture

These Scripture passages follow Jesus into the wilderness and describe his temptation after 40 days of fasting. Jesus withstands the temptation and returns to Galilee, full of the Spirit, and chooses followers to join him on his “rescue” mission of restoring people to God and bringing God’s kingdom to earth. It’s important to compare Jesus’ temptation in the desert with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus trusted his Father and his Father’s words, even in the midst of physical weakness, loneliness, and tempting offers. He understands what we feel like when we’re desperate, lonely, and tempted. We’re not strong enough on our own to stand firm, but Jesus was. He did what we can’t do, and we are invited to lean into his strength and power when we find ourselves weak and abandoned in the wilderness.

|  | storybooks | bible readings |
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| read aloud | *Jesus Storybook Bible:* “Let’s Go!”, p.208-213 | Matthew 4:1-22; Mark 1:12-20; Luke 4:1-13, 5:1-11  Hebrews 4:15; 1 Cor. 10:13 |
| discuss/ ask | Why do you think the Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the desert? What do you think that felt like? Was he lonely? How would you feel after not eating for 40 days?  What did Satan tempt Jesus to do? How was this the same or different from how he tempted Eve in the garden of Eden? How did Jesus respond differently from Adam and Eve?  If Satan were going to tempt you, what would you find it hardest to say “no” to?  Do you think it’s funny that the disciples caught the most fish ever when they obeyed Jesus’ directions, then immediately left all those fish to follow Jesus? Why do you think they did that? What made following Jesus so important? What would you be willing to leave behind to follow Jesus?  What do you think Jesus meant when he told the disciples they would start to catch people instead of fish? What do you think they thought?  If Jesus was God, why do you think he chose ordinary people to help him and be on his team? How do you think Jesus wants you to help and follow him? | |
| do together | When Satan tempted Jesus, Jesus was able to remember Scripture that was hidden in his heart in order to respond to Satan and stay strong. God’s words gave him strength when he was weak. Pick a Scripture to memorize together as a family, that will help you when you feel weak or scared or tempted. I’ve found that a Scripture can be memorized together just by reading it aloud a few times each day at a meal. Begin to leave out words and let everybody fill them in; then leave out phrases; then whole verses. If you consistently do this, everybody will eventually have the Scripture memorized. | |