

LESSON 11

JESUS IS TEMPTED BY SATAN

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Satan

Your students may wonder who Satan is and where he came from. It is believed that Satan was cast out of heaven onto the earth, because of his disobedience and pride (Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:16-18; Lk 10:18).

Satan formed his own kingdom of angels and demons (Mt 12:24, 26; 25:41). He has worked since the time of creation to corrupt men in order to bring accusations against them before God. He prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (1 Pet 5:8), tempting us to sin and fall away from God's grace.

The world is under the control of Satan because of sin (Jn 8:34; 1 Jn 3:8). Because people cannot deliver themselves from Satan's reign by their own efforts (Mk 5:2-4; Rom 7:15-24), Jesus was sent to deliver mankind. Jesus came into the world "to destroy the works of the devil" (1 Jn 3:8). If we remain in God's grace, Satan's temptation cannot overcome the power of Jesus to keep us from sin.

Jesus demonstrated His superiority by resisting Satan's temptations and by casting out demons (Mk 3:22-27; Mt 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13). By His death and resurrection, Jesus shattered the power of Satan over mankind (Col 2:14-15; Heb 2:14-15). Satan will one day receive his punishment and will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10), where he can work no more.

Satan was very cunning when he tempted Jesus. Each temptation that Satan presented to Jesus seemed to appeal to Jesus' mission on earth. Two of the temptations began with "If You are the Son of God," and the third temptation lured Jesus with the promise of absolute authority over all the earth.

In fact, these were the exact reasons why Jesus came to earth: to show Himself as the Son of God for salvation's sake so His elect would believe in Him, and to establish for Himself an everlasting kingdom.

This is Satan's guile. Satan even quoted the Scriptures to substantiate what he was saying. Jesus countered each of Satan's statements by quoting from Deuteronomy, the book that contains the summation of God's laws and covenant with Israel. Reinforce to your students that Satan will work deceitfully to trick them into temptation. Satan does not appear with two horns and a pitchfork to trick them to sin, like in cartoons! The devil works relentlessly.

Even after Jesus had overcome these three temptations, Luke records that the devil "left Him until an opportune time." Satan had not left Jesus alone for good. Teach your students the importance of using God's words to stay alert to Satan's devices, discerning right from wrong in obvious and subtle temptations, and holding fast to God's commands.

Help your students understand that even after they have overcome a particular temptation, the devil does not stop working and will continue to find opportunities to lure them to sin.

BIBLE TEXT

Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13;
Luke 4:1-13

BIBLE TRUTH

Satan tempts us to sin against God.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To rely on the power of God and His words through prayer and Bible reading to overcome temptation.

MEMORY VERSE

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation."

(Matthew 26:41a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. We thank You, Lord, for bringing us here today to worship You. Lord, sometimes the world around us is so tempting and it can be hard to do the right thing. But Lord, we know that You are all-powerful. If we learn to rely on You, You can give us the strength to overcome our temptations and to do what is pleasing to You. You have given us the weapons to overcome Satan: prayers to give us spiritual power and Your words to help us make the right choices. We know that we can overcome temptations just as You did when You were tempted by Satan. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

In this week's lesson, your students will learn how Jesus resisted Satan's temptations. Since we are God's children, Satan works to tempt us because he hates God and anyone who belongs to Him.

Satan is constantly trying to cause us to sin. The Bible warns us, "Your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet 5:8). Help your students understand that it is not a sin to be tempted, but it is to surrender and commit the sins that Satan wants us to commit. Fortunately, God has given us some very powerful weapons to fight temptation: His

words and His Spirit.

God's words tell us what is right and wrong. God can give us the strength to say "no" to temptation when we use His word. Jesus used the words of God twice to resist Satan's temptations. The Bible says that His words are the "sword of the Spirit."

The Holy Spirit can also help us to overcome temptation. We can ask the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts, and we can also constantly pray for spiritual power to resist temptation. When we continually rely on God's words and His power, the devil will flee from us (Jas 4:7).

VOCABULARY

tempt: to try to get someone to sin against God

Satan: the devil; a bad spirit and enemy of God who tries to make us sin

miracle: an event or action done by God that humans cannot do on their own

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about an important thing that can wash away our sins, make us children of God, and help us get to heaven. Does anyone remember what it is? (Water baptism.)

Even though Jesus had not done anything wrong, He set an example for us by receiving baptism Himself. A man who lived in the desert baptized Jesus. This man wore clothes made of camel hair and ate locusts and honey. Who was Jesus baptized by? (John the Baptist.)

After Jesus was baptized, what amazing things happened? (Heaven opened, the Holy Spirit came down on Him like a dove, and a voice from heaven said, "You are My Son, whom I love; I am greatly pleased by You.") Today, we also must be baptized so we can become children of God, and one day be with God in heaven. Why is baptism so important, children? (That's right, when we are baptized, our sins are forgiven and we become children of God!)

BIBLE STORY

Introduction

In this week's lesson, we will be learning about someone who doesn't want us to be with God and who is trying very hard to keep us from going to heaven. This someone is Satan.

Satan will do anything to stop us from obeying God. He tries to make us sin against God so we become separated from Him and unable to go to heaven. He even tried to stop Jesus from doing what God wanted.

Today, we will learn how Satan tried to stop Jesus from doing God's work. We will learn how Jesus was able to resist Satan's tricks. We will see how Jesus overcame Satan's temptations by relying on God's Holy Spirit and words—two powerful weapons we can use to overcome Satan when he tries to tempt us.

Satan Tempts Jesus

After John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, the Holy

Spirit sent Jesus out into the desert. For forty days and forty nights, Jesus did not eat anything. Boys and girls, how would you feel if you did not eat anything for forty days and forty nights? [Wait for students to respond.] Very, very hungry, right? Show me what it's like when you're very, very hungry. [Get students to act out hunger.]

Jesus was not any different. Even though He was God Himself, Jesus was also a human being like us. After not eating for forty days and nights, He was also very, very hungry. It was after the forty days and nights that Satan came to tempt Jesus—when Jesus was weak and tired.

Satan Tempts Jesus to Turn Stone into Bread

Satan saw that Jesus was feeling weak and hungry. Here was his chance to make Him sin. The devil said to Jesus: "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

What might Jesus have thought? "Doesn't that sound

wonderful? I can already smell the bread and feel it melt in My mouth; I just need one mouthful. I am starving..."

Jesus quickly snapped out of it. [Quickly shake head as if shaking off a thought.] Jesus had the power to turn stone to bread but the power wasn't for Him to abuse. Jesus had an important job to do and that was to bring people to God again—not to feed His hungry stomach.

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

That was a close one, but Jesus remembered God's words in the Bible. Unfortunately, Satan wasn't going to give up that easily. He had a few more tricks up his sleeves.

Satan Tempts Jesus to Throw Himself Down from the Temple

Then, Satan took Jesus to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. Have any of you ever stood at the top of a really tall building? What does it feel like? Have you ever felt your legs become wobbly? It was a long, long way down for Jesus as well, standing all the way up there on the temple roof. Falling down could really hurt.

Satan said, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here, for it is written: 'He will command His angels concerning You to guard You carefully; they will lift You up in their hands so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus could really show the world that He was the Son of God by jumping off the temple and landing safely. Everyone would see that He was special, and wasn't that what He came to do—to show everyone that He was the Son of God?

Satan was tempting Jesus with words from the Bible! But Jesus knew this was wrong. This wasn't how God would have wanted Jesus to make people believe in Him. He also knew it was wrong to test God by asking Him to perform a miracle to test if He really would save Him. Jesus remembered what was written in the Bible and answered Satan, "It is also written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

That was another close call. Boys and girls, Satan was not ready to give up just yet. He had one more trick that he thought might just be able to trip Jesus up.

Satan Tempts Jesus with All the Kingdoms of the World

Again, Satan took Jesus up to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. There were huge cities, magnificent palaces, beautiful gardens, as well as all the nations and their people, servants, and armies. The devil showed all the riches and glory of the world to Jesus.

Then Satan said to Jesus: "I will give You the power to rule over all of these kingdoms and their riches and glory. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want

to. I will give You all of this, if You bow down and worship me."

Boys and girls, do you know what's wrong with this request? Do you know what Satan was asking Jesus to do?

Jesus said to him, "Away from me Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

Jesus had a kingdom for Himself, but it was not to be made of all the riches and glory of this world. His kingdom is a heavenly kingdom and not something that we can see with our eyes. Jesus knew the kingdoms Satan was promising would not last forever. Satan wanted Jesus to worship him, but Jesus knew that He should only worship God.

Pray for the Holy Spirit and Study God's Word

In the same way, Jesus wants us all to be able to go to the heavenly kingdom when the time comes. But Satan will try to make us love things in this world more than we love God. He will find ways to make us attracted to and get lost in the world as long as we are in the world.

Satan knows what our heart wants and will tempt us to want it more than we want to obey and worship God. If we are kids, maybe Satan will tempt us with a favorite toy or computer game so that it is all we think about, even when we are at church. When we are older, he may tempt us with money and power, so that we would rather go to the office to work and make money than come to church for Sabbath.

But we cannot take any of these things with us when we die. That's why we must always love God most of all, so we can have a part in heaven. After Jesus used God's words to overcome Satan's final temptation, Satan gave up for the time being. But he hadn't quite given up for good. The Bible said that angels then came and took care of Jesus.

Just like with Jesus, even when we overcome Satan by resisting temptation, Satan never gives up. He will wait until he sees another chance when we might be feeling weak or tired to try to tempt us again.

But remember that all of us have two important weapons to fight off Satan's temptations: God's words, and strength and power from praying with the Holy Spirit. As long as we keep on relying on these two weapons every day, Satan will not be able to tempt us.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Where did Jesus go right after He was baptized?** He went into the desert.
2. **For _____ (forty) days and nights, Jesus did not _____ (eat or drink anything).**
3. **True or False: Jesus was God so He did not feel hungry after being without food.** False; even though Jesus was God, He was also a human being like us and could feel the same things we feel, such as hunger or thirst.
4. **What did Satan tempt Jesus to do with the stone?** Turn it into bread.
5. **When Satan brought Jesus to the highest point of the temple, what did he tempt Jesus to do?** Throw Himself down.
6. **What did Satan say would happen if Jesus threw Himself down?** God would command His angels to hold Jesus so that He would not strike His foot against a stone.
7. **Satan said that he would give Jesus all the kingdoms in the world if Jesus would do what?** Bow down and worship him.
8. **True or False: Satan does not know the words of God.** False; Satan used God's words to tempt Jesus. However, he did not use them in the right way. We need to know God's words well so that we can use them properly when deciding between right and wrong.
9. **How did Jesus overcome all of these temptations?** He used God's words and relied on God's power.
10. **_____ (Angels) came and took care of Jesus after Satan left.**

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation." (Matthew 26:41a)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. **Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness and fasted for forty days and nights before He began His ministry. Satan's temptations can be very subtle. Satan tried to tempt Jesus by giving Him what He wanted, but through incorrect means.**

Before doing God's work, teach your students the importance of preparing, praying, and obeying the Spirit, just as Jesus had done. Satan will thwart our attempts to further the kingdom of God. Our ultimate victory over Satan hinges on our reliance on God. Since Satan's temptations can be very subtle, we must diligently learn God's words and be watchful and prayerful so that we not easily be deceived (2 Cor 11:3; Mt 26:41; Mk 14:38).

2. **Even Satan can quote the Scripture, but he uses it wrongly and with ill-intent.**

We must pursue God's words so that we can discern right from wrong when we encounter situations (Eph 4:14; 2 Cor 4:2). We must understand the importance of receiving and being filled with the Spirit of truth so that we are guided into all truth (Jn 16:13).

3. **Satan works harder to make us fall when we seem strong. He does not simply let up but takes every opportunity to make us fall.**

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor 10:12). Satan did not simply let up, even when he was up against:

- the Son of God
- the One who had spiritual power from having fasted for 40 days
- the One whose mission is to save mankind and ultimately destroy Satan

In fact, Satan became even more cunning by:

- quoting the Scriptures to substantiate his claims
- luring Jesus with the promise of giving Him what He wanted to entice Him to sin

4. When Satan tempted Jesus and offered Him the kingdoms of the world, Jesus was able to distinguish the temporary physical kingdom that Satan offered from an eternal spiritual kingdom.

When we set our hearts on material blessings, we will come away with nothing, like in the parable of the rich fool. We should pursue spiritual blessings and store away treasures, where thieves cannot steal and moths cannot eat. When we seek the kingdom of God first, God will look after all our needs.

Two important weapons can help us overcome temptation.

1. The word of God: Our main weapon against temptation is our knowledge of God's word!

Why was Jesus victorious in resisting Satan's temptations? Because He knew God's word! That's why Jesus did not say "I think"—He said, "It is written." And Jesus learned God's word in the same way we learn it—by reading it, memorizing it, meditating on it, etc.

Likewise, Paul says that our key weapon against Satan is "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph 6:17). This is one of the many reasons why it is so important to get into the Bible daily! Also, it will build spiritual knowledge, which we can use to resist temptation (Ps 119:104, 165).

2. The power of prayer: James 5:16 states that the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man "avails much" (NKJV); "has great power" (ESV); and "is powerful and effective" (NIV).

ACTIVITIES

1

TV Temptations

Objective: To make students think about the temptations they see on TV.

Beware of commercials on TV! They can tempt you to feel bad about things you don't have. Have you ever felt the way these children have?

Instructions

1. Hand out the worksheets to the students.
2. Give them time to think about the four scenarios.
3. Discuss how we can rely on God's words and His power to overcome these temptations.
4. Ask the students to come up with some other temptations that they have seen on TV and fill in the blank TVs.
5. Remind them to seek the kingdom of God first.

2

Match-up: "Satan said" ... "Jesus said"

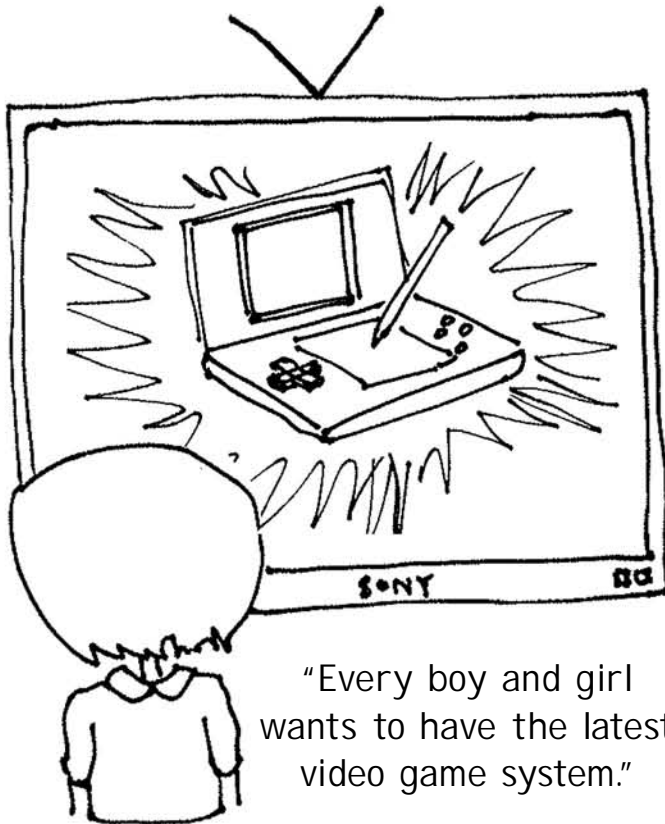
Objective: To recall how Jesus resisted Satan's temptations.

Instructions

1. Hand out worksheet #1 for the students to color and cut out.
2. Hand out worksheet #2 and ask the students to glue the pictures from page 1 in the correct boxes.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

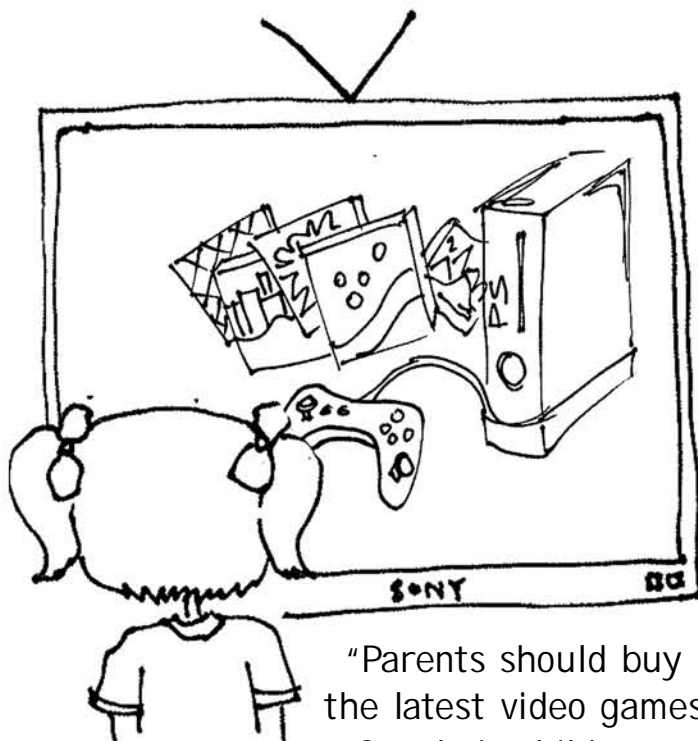
- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Holy Spirit, desert | 6. B |
| 2. three, sin | 7. True |
| 3. test | 8. True |
| 4. Angels | 9. Answers may vary. |
| 5. C | 10. The word of God; the power of the Holy Spirit |



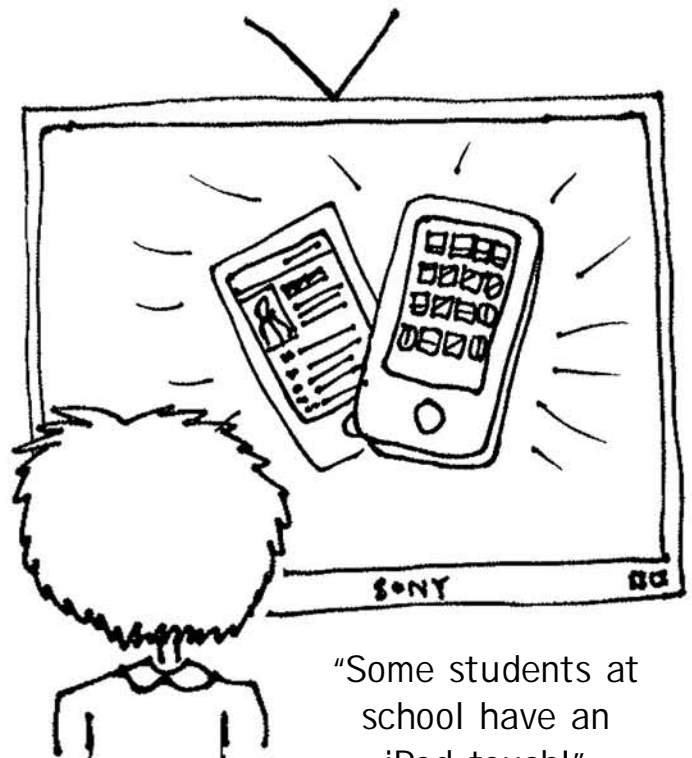
"Every boy and girl wants to have the latest video game system."



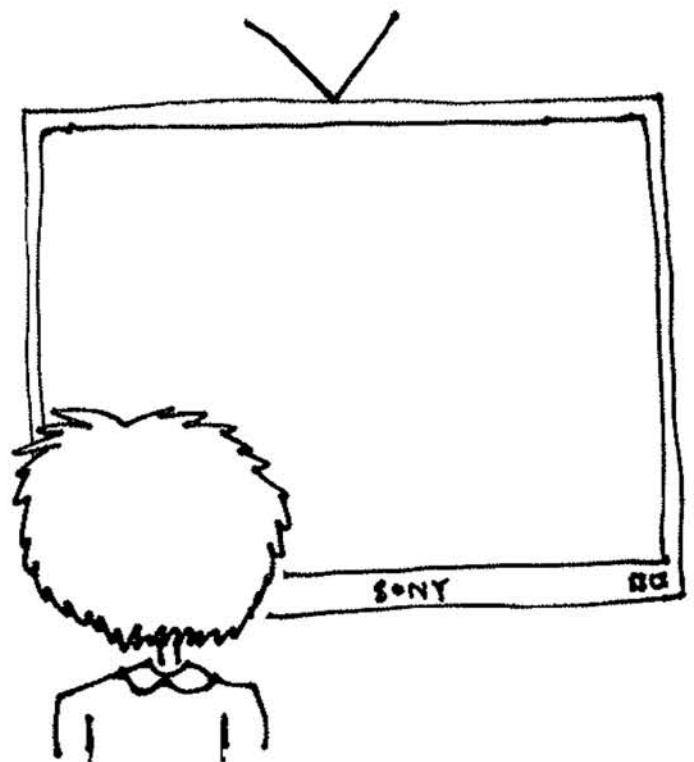
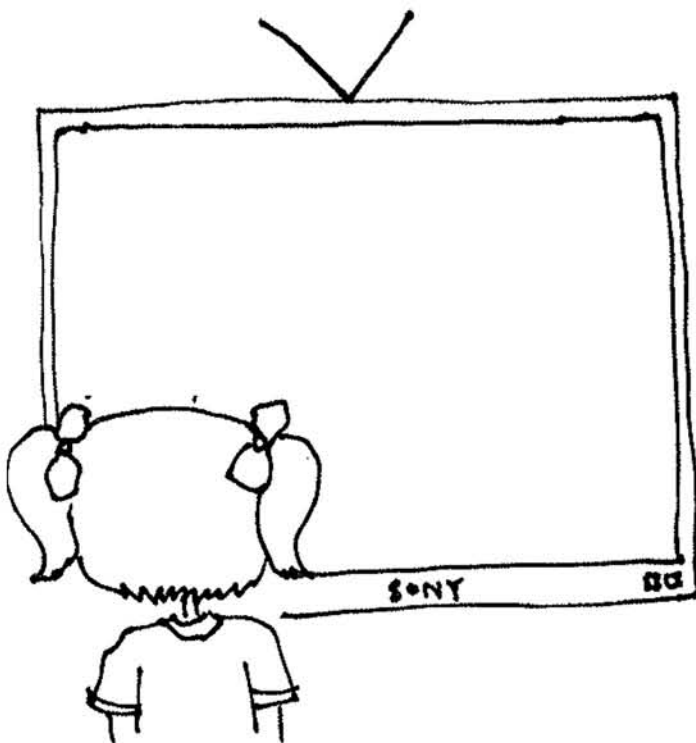
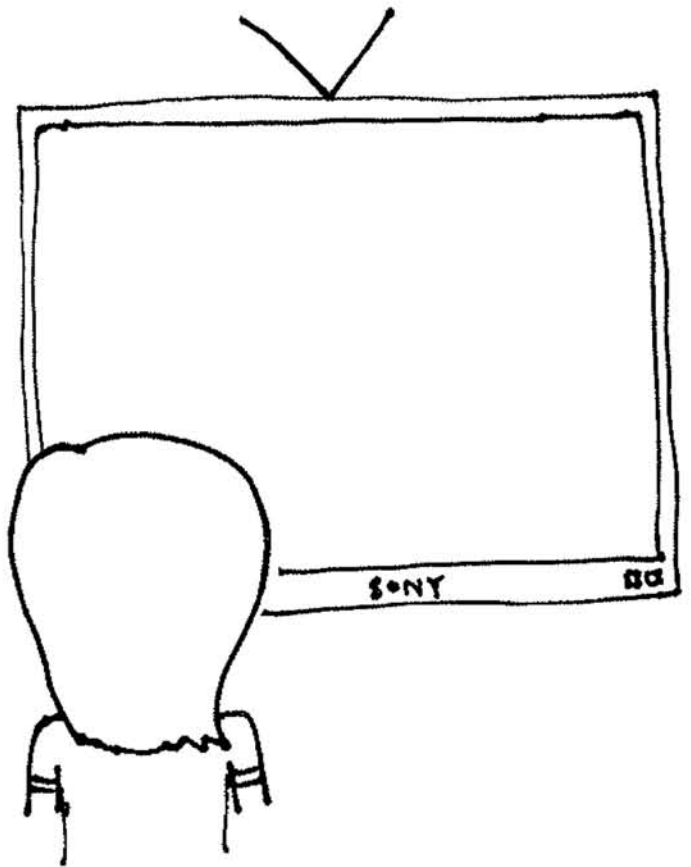
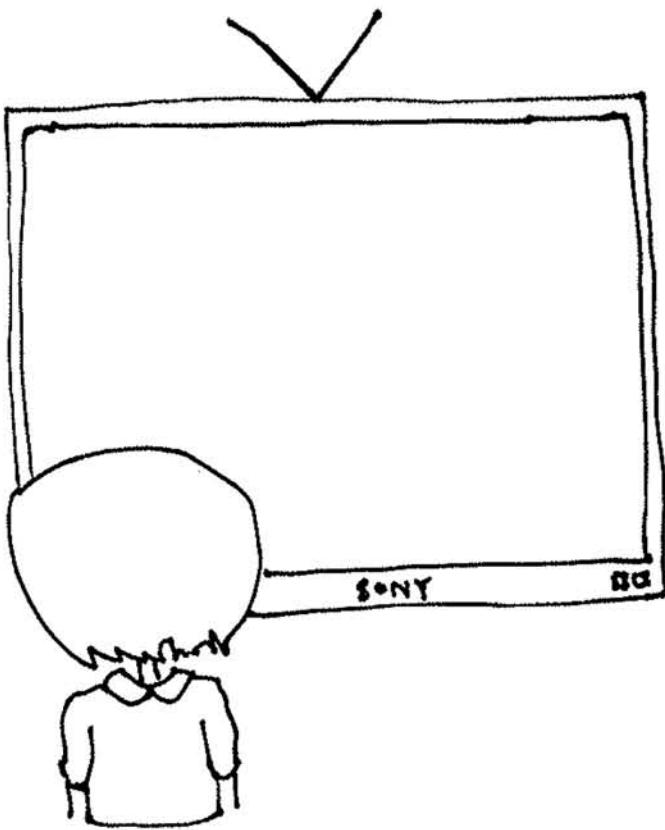
"This expensive bike makes all the others look bad."

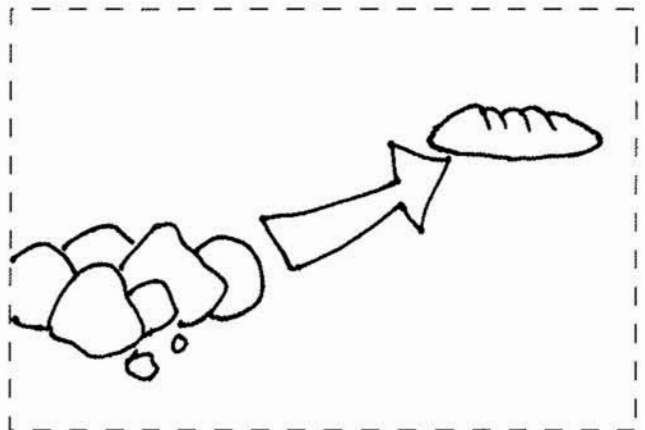
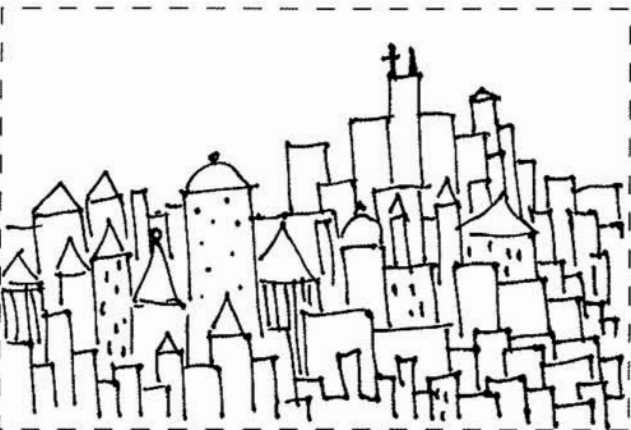
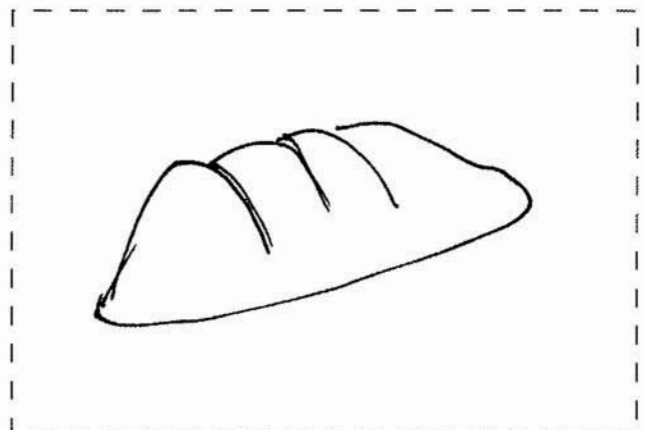
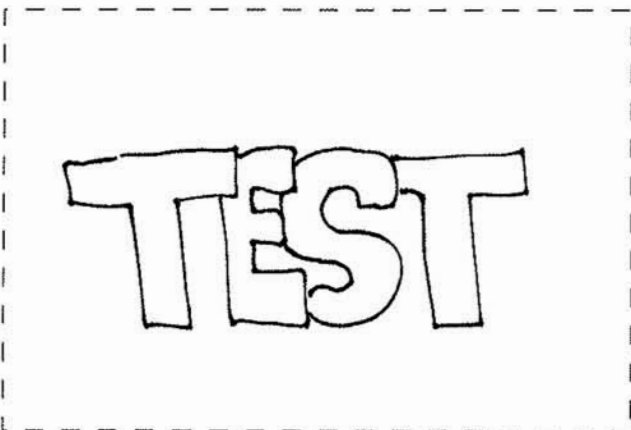
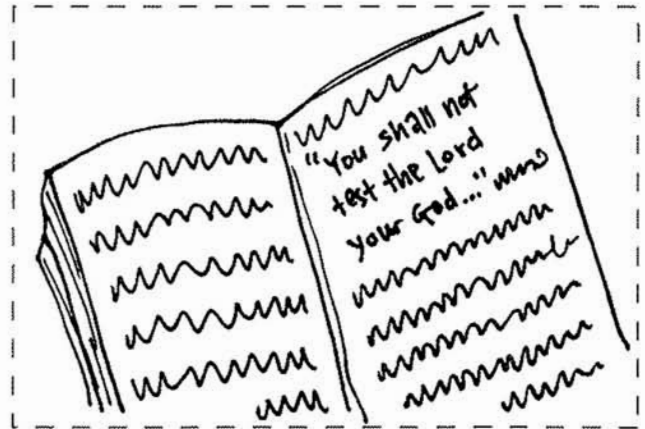
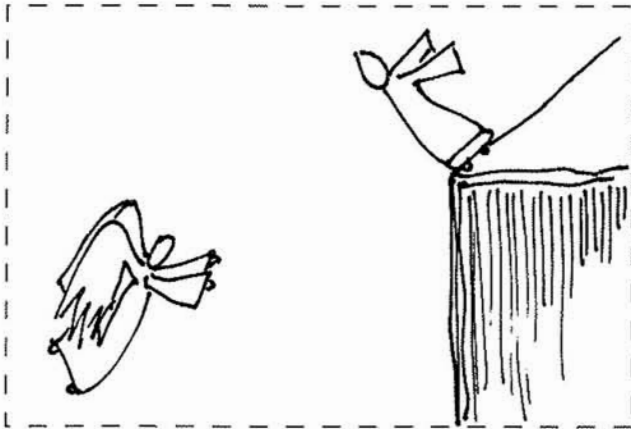


"Parents should buy the latest video games for their children."



"Some students at school have an iPod touch!"





Match-up: "Satan said" ... "Jesus said"

"If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here."

"It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"

"It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

"It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

"I will give You all these kingdoms, if You bow down and worship me."

"If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

E1 Year 1 Book 4 Lesson 11—Jesus Is Tempted by Satan

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Satan tempts us to sin against God.**Lesson Objective:** To rely on the power of God and His words through prayer and Bible reading to overcome temptation.**Bible Reading:** Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.**Prayer:** Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Matthew 26:41a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

test	desert	three	Holy Spirit	angels	sin
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1. After Jesus was baptized, the _____ led Jesus into the _____ to be tempted by the devil.
2. Satan tempted Jesus _____ times to get Jesus to _____.
3. Jesus would not jump when Satan tempted Him. He said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the _____."
4. _____ came and took care of Jesus after He had been tempted.

Multiple Choice

5. _____ : Jesus fasted for _____ days and nights.
 - a. 7
 - b. 20
 - c. 40
6. _____ : "If You are the Son of God, command these _____ to become bread."
 - a. Sticks
 - b. Stones
 - c. Snakes

True or False

7. Satan brought Jesus to a very high mountain and tempted Jesus to jump down because God would send angels to protect Him. _____
8. After the temptation, Satan left Jesus for awhile and waited for another chance to tempt Jesus again. _____

Life Application

9. Satan is trying to tempt us to do wrong. When has Satan tempted you? How did he tempt you, and what did you do?

10. What are two important weapons that can help us overcome temptation?

