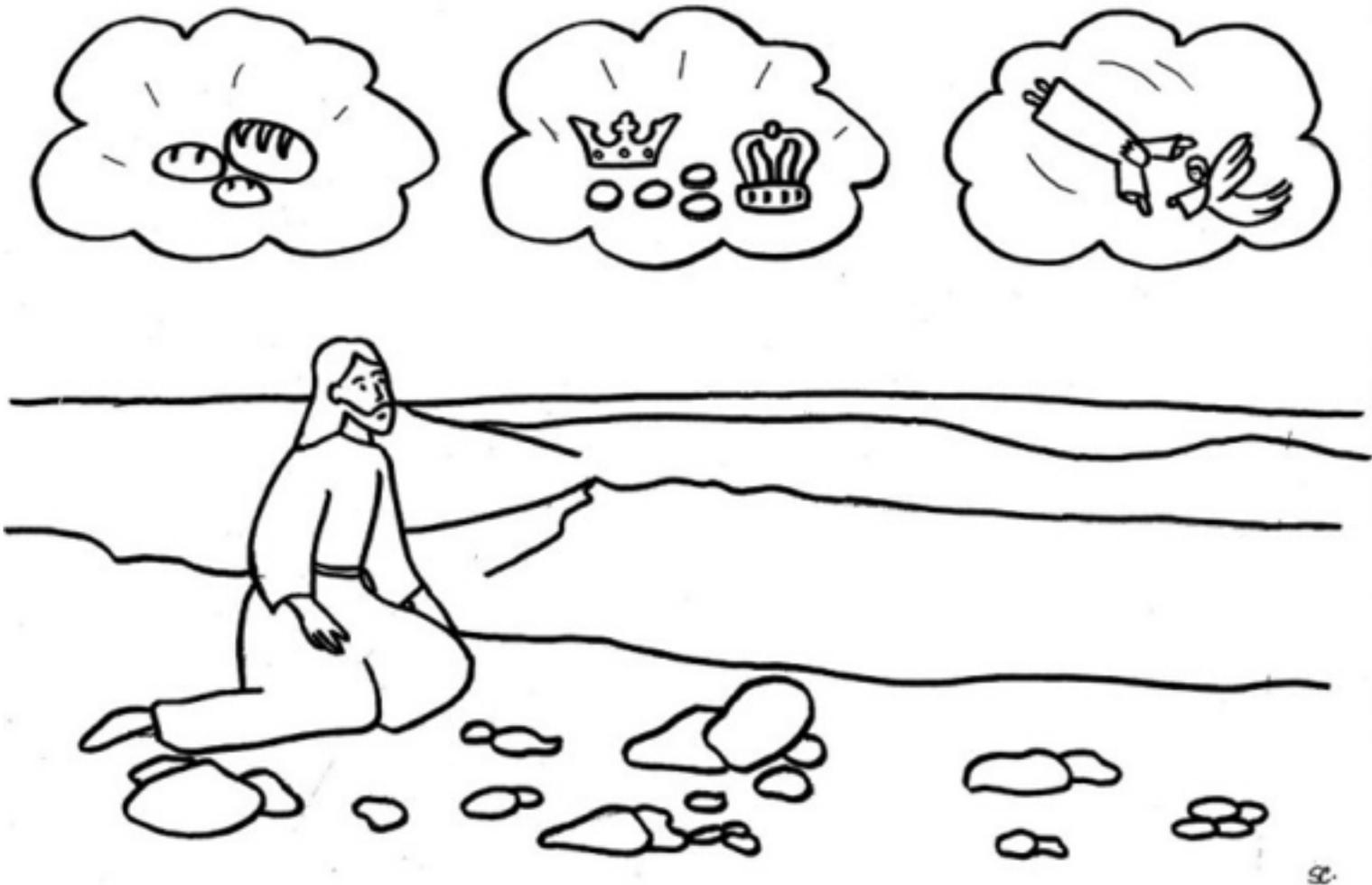


St. James Episcopal Church
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!
FEBRUARY 14, 2016—THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

JESUS IS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL: BUT RELIES ON GOD ALONE



DEVIL: You're hungry. If you're God, turn this stone into bread.

JESUS: People don't need just bread. We need God more than food.

DEVIL: Here's the whole world. If you worship me, I'll give the whole thing to you. You'll be the most powerful person on earth.

JESUS: We worship only God, nothing else.

DEVIL: Here you are at the top of the tallest building in Jerusalem. Throw yourself off because God will send his angels to catch you. God won't let you get hurt.

JESUS: We don't test God.

Then the Devil left.

BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

LENT

At the beginning of Lent, we mark the time when Jesus is sent into the wilderness. While there, he prays and prepares for what lies ahead for him. Likewise, the season of Lent can be presented to children as a time to pause, to pray, and to prepare for what lies ahead for us. These brief six weeks can stand as a respite from the regular hectic rhythms of life.

- Try setting time aside for special study and prayer.
- Use the Lenten season to teach children about prayer by helping them to learn and memorize the Lord's Prayer or the Apostles' Creed, or to read the Bible passages about Jesus praying.
- Encourage a family prayer time each week or each night during Lent.
- Brainstorm: what could we do as a family for Lent? How could we be better 40 days from now? After collecting all suggestions, narrow to two or three that are the most do-able, write them on newsprint and post on the refrigerator or some other visible spot.

Giving up a favorite food, activity or possession is a good way to make the season of lent a special season of growth and clarity. Encourage everyone in your family to give up something and to talk about the process. Why is it important to you? How do you feel without it? Will you be glad to have it back on Easter, or is it something that you realize that you don't really need at all?

LIVING IN A WORLD OF TEMPTATIONS

Life for our kids can be a challenging walk through a maze of choices and temptations. Friends, activities, and priorities: what kinds of friends should I make? How should I spend my afternoons? How should I spend my money? Good choices, bad choices are all a part of life. Talk with your kids about choices you have made. Where they good or bad? Talk to them about their choices. How can you help them in their decisions and temptations?

Dinner Table Conversation:

What is a temptation?

What temptations do we face each day?

What temptations do we face from watching television? from our peers? at home?

What helps us say "No" to temptations?