



Bible Point ▶

Jesus did what was right even when it was hard.

Bible Verse

“Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight” (Deuteronomy 6:18a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will experience the pull of temptation,
discover that Jesus overcame temptation,
help Pockets do the right thing, and
learn that they can do the right thing even when it’s hard.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

Jesus is tempted in the wilderness.

**Matthew
4:1-11**



This passage follows directly after the passage in last week’s lesson, in which Jesus was baptized and God spoke to confirm who Jesus truly was—the Son of God. It appears that immediately after this wonderful experience, Jesus was allowed to be tested by Satan.

God initiated this time of temptation for Jesus, as the Holy Spirit led Jesus out into the desert for that purpose. Jesus had to be able to stand up to Satan and remain true to his Father if he was going to follow through with the plan God had for him.

Three times Satan tempted Jesus, and three times Jesus used Scripture to overcome the temptation. That’s an example we should take to heart when we’re facing temptation! And even when Satan offered Jesus an opportunity to avoid all the pain that Jesus knew was coming (Matthew 4:8-10), Jesus stayed true to his Father and resisted Satan.

Your children know what temptation is. And they certainly know what it’s like to give in to temptation. Use this lesson to help children begin to understand that temptation doesn’t have to result in sin.

Prayer

- Read Luke 4:1-13. What additional thoughts about Jesus’ temptation come out of this passage?
- What are some of the most difficult temptations students in your class face?
- Pray: Lord, give my students an understanding of how they can resist temptation when...








Before the Lesson

Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.

Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.

Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	"Child Name Tags" (p. 98), markers, pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Bible Shields —Create shields to resist temptation.	Paper plates, markers, crayons, stapler, fabric	
	Option 2: Wild Wilderness —Design pictures from natural items.	Construction paper; glue; sand or sandpaper; natural items such as rocks, leaves, and sticks	
	Option 3: Tempting Treats —Make cinnamon biscuits.	Cinnamon sugar, refrigerator biscuits, butter, cookie sheet	
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Use paper shields to "battle temptation."	Shields from Option 1, newspaper, masking tape	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, basket of surprise cards from Lesson 6, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Cheer for Jesus as he overcomes each temptation in Matthew 4:1-11, and discover a secret message for resisting temptation.	Bible, CD player, shields from Option 1, crayons (including black), paper, tape	
	Do the Bible Story —Resist pushing and pulling trio members.	Masking tape	
Closing 	Puzzled Pockets —Help Pockets learn the importance of resisting temptation.	Coins, CD player	
	Victory Cheer —Enjoy a treat they've resisted, and perform a victory cheer.	Cinnamon biscuits from Option 3	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

Welcome!

SUPPLIES: “Child Name Tags” (p. 98), markers, pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned...” discussion. Ask questions such as “How did Jesus please God?” and “What did you do this past week that pleased God?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus did what was right even when it was hard.**
- Hand out the child name tags children made in Lesson 6, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if some of the children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopyable patterns.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

teacher tips

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What things are hard to resist?” and “When have you really wanted something you knew you shouldn’t have?”

Option 1: Bible Shields

SUPPLIES: paper plates, markers, crayons, stapler, fabric



Before children arrive, cut enough 1x4-inch strips of fabric for each child to have one.

Set out paper plates, markers, crayons, a stapler, the fabric strips, and the *thumbs up stamp* and *ink pad*. Allow children to decorate the back of a paper plate to look like a shield. Then have them staple the ends of a fabric strip to the front as a handle. Have children make extra shields for those who don’t choose this option. Tell children that today’s story is about a time when Jesus used God’s Word to protect himself from temptation. Say that today they’ll learn that ► Jesus did what was right even when it was hard.

Set aside the shields for use during the “Setting the Stage” activity.





If bad weather keeps you from going outside, bring silk flowers and leaves to class.



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►

Option 2: Wild Wilderness

SUPPLIES: construction paper; glue; sand or sandpaper; natural items such as rocks, leaves, and sticks

Set out construction paper, glue, and sandpaper or bowls of sand. Lead children outside to collect items such as sticks, leaves, flowers, small stones, and bits of grass.

Inside your classroom, help children use the items they've gathered to make wilderness scenes. Demonstrate how to glue sand or sandpaper to the bottom half of the paper to represent the dry, sandy desert floor. As children are working, explain that Jesus went through a hard time in the wilderness. Say that today they'll learn that ► Jesus did what was right even when it was hard.

Option 3: Tempting Treats

SUPPLIES: cinnamon sugar, refrigerator biscuits, butter, cookie sheet

Set out refrigerator biscuits, a bowl of cinnamon sugar, a bowl of melted butter or margarine, and a cookie sheet. Help children dip the biscuits in butter and then in cinnamon sugar. Have them place the treats on a greased cookie sheet. As children work, talk about how delicious the treats smell and how wonderful they'll taste. Tell children that it's not time to eat the biscuits, but they sure are tempting! Explain that today they'll hear a story about a time when Jesus was tempted. Say that today they'll learn that ► Jesus did what was right even when it was hard.

Have an adult helper bake the biscuits according to package directions. Allow the treats to cool in your classroom, where children can see and smell them.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Pick Up Our Toys" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Skip to My Lou." Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.



**We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys
And put them all away.**

**There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.**

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: shields from Option 1, newspaper, masking tape

Before class, make a masking-tape line down the middle of the room. Form two groups, and have the groups stand on opposite sides of the line.

Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Give each child three sheets of newspaper and a shield from Option 1. Have children wad their newspapers into three paper balls. Say: **When I say "go," you can throw your paper balls at the other group. But be careful! At the same time, you'll use your shield to protect yourself from the other group's paper balls. After you've thrown your three balls, sit against this wall, and wait for others to finish. You may be tempted to pick up extra balls and throw them, too. But remember, you don't want to give in to temptation! Ready? Go!**

When everyone has had a chance to throw three balls, form a circle.

Ask: • **What was it like to have paper balls thrown at you?** (Scary; weird; hard to keep away from them; fun.)

• **Was it easy to shield yourself from the paper? Explain.** (Yes, because no one threw them at me; yes, because I was watching for people to throw them at me.)

• **Was it hard to resist picking up extra paper balls and throwing them? Explain.** (Yes, because there were some right in front of me; kind of, because I didn't like the rule.)

Say: **Today we're going to hear about a time Jesus had to protect himself from Satan. Jesus used God's Word as a shield to resist Satan's temptations. In our story, we'll see that ► Jesus did what was right even when it was hard. First, we need to clean up our "battleground." You might be tempted to throw another paper ball, but try very hard to resist! Let's put the paper in the garbage can instead.**

Help children clean up the newspaper before moving on to the next activity.

This Bible story is featured in the new *My First Hands-On Bible*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, basket of surprise cards from Lesson 6, CD player



Set the basket of surprise cards that you made in Lesson 6 next to you. If you don't have surprise cards, follow the directions in the "Bible Song and Prayer Time" section of Lesson 6 for this activity. Bookmark **Matthew 4:1-11** in the Bible you'll be using.

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **Each week when we come to our circle for our Bible Story, I'll choose someone to be the Bible helper. The Bible helper will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story for that week. Before I choose today's Bible helper, let's sing our Bible song. As we sing, I'll pass out the surprise cards. Don't look inside your card until the song is over.**

Lead children in singing "Read God's Book" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "The Muffin Man." As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.



Now it's time to read God's book,
Read God's book, read God's book.
Now it's time to read God's book.
Let's hear a Bible story.

Now it's time to read God's book,
Read God's book, read God's book.
Now it's time to read God's book.
Let's hear a Bible story.

(Repeat.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the thumbs up stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible helper for today.**

Identify the Bible helper, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible helper to bring you the Bible. Assist the Bible helper in opening the Bible to the marked place, and show the children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible helper sit down.

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible helper today. Each week we'll have only one special Bible helper, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we're all learning that ► Jesus did what was right even when it was hard.**

Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn how Jesus did what was right. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, thank you for letting Jesus be our example."

Pass around the basket or box. When you've collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside for use next week, and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that ► Jesus did what was right even when it was hard.**

BIBLE POINT ►

BIBLE POINT ►

Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, paper, crayons (including black), CD player, shields from Option 1, tape

tracks 13 & 18



Before class, cut apart the *Secret Message rubbing plates* from the Learning Lab. Cut pieces of paper roughly the size of the rubbing plate sections until you have one for each child. Set these supplies aside until you've finished the *Learning Mat* activity.

Bring out the *Learning Mat: Story Circle 4*, and tape the ends together to form a circle. Have children gather around you with their shields from Option 1. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Matthew in the Bible. Our Story Circle shows us pictures of our Bible story. Today you'll hear about someone named Satan, or the devil. Satan is God's enemy. God wants us to do what's right, but Satan tries to get us to do what's wrong. That's called temptation.**

As you listen to the story on the CD, hold up your shield, and give your neighbor a high five each time Jesus overcomes Satan's temptation. Listen carefully!

Hold up *Story Circle 4* so children can see the first scene. Play "Jesus Says No!" (track 18) on the CD. Each time you hear the chime, move the *Story Circle* so children can see the next scene of the story.

teacher tips

For added learning, cut the paper into the shape of a stop sign, and let children explain to you what a stop sign means. Relate this to resisting temptation. You can use the stop sign outline on this page as a guide.

When the track ends, turn off the CD player, and put *Story Circle 4* out of sight.

Ask: • **Where did Satan tempt Jesus?** (In the desert; on the Temple; on a mountain.)

• **How did Jesus resist Satan's temptations?** (By quoting Bible verses; by knowing what God's Word said; he was stronger than Satan.)

• **Why would Satan want to tempt Jesus?** (To make Jesus not love God; to take Jesus away from God; to make himself more powerful.)

• **Why does Satan want to tempt us today?** (So we'll do wrong things; so we'll turn away from God; to keep us from loving God.)

Say: **Satan doesn't want us to love God. That's why he tries to pull us away with tempting things. But ► Jesus did what was right even when it was hard—and so can you! By knowing what the Bible says and by calling on God, we can turn away from those bad things and choose to do what's right.**

Bring out the *Secret Message rubbing plates*, the paper, and crayons. Don't set out the black crayons. Say: **We're going to read from the Bible about different times Jesus was tempted. While we do that, we're going to discover a hidden message that is on these rubbing plates. When a plate comes to you, put your piece of paper on top of it, and rub a crayon over it. Hold your paper tight. The rubbings will reveal a secret message.**

Get kids started with the rubbings, but make sure no one connects the dots until everyone gets a turn to do the crayon rub. While kids work, open an easy-to-read version of the Bible, such as the *Hands-On Bible*, to **Matthew 4**. Read the following verses to the children: verses 3-4, 5-7, and 8-10. After each set of verses,

Ask: • **How did Jesus answer the devil?** (He said no; he wouldn't obey the devil; don't test the Lord.)

Say: **Jesus showed us how to do the right thing, even when it was hard. Let's discover what the message is on our rubbings now. Do you see the numbers on your plate? Using a black crayon, we're going to connect the dots in order from one to 10. If we do it right, it will show us Jesus' secret about what to do when we're tempted.**

Help kids connect the dots to reveal the word **NO**. Then say: **Jesus used this word every time Satan tried to tempt him. What is the word? Hold your card up and say it loud to the devil—"No!"** Pause while kids shout out the word. **Take your papers home, and remember that Jesus showed you the way—when you're tempted to do something that is wrong, just say "No!"** Our Bible verse in the book of Deuteronomy tells us to ► **"do what is right and good in the Lord's sight."** When we're tempted to do something wrong, we can think about that verse and do the right thing instead.

Let's sing a song about doing what's right. Let's listen to it first, and then we'll join in. Lead the children in singing "Right and Good" (Deuteronomy 6:18a) (track 13) to the tune of "Rise and Shine" with the *CD*.



SING

Do what is right
And good in the Lord's sight.
Do what is right
And good in the Lord's sight.
Do—what's—right—and
(Clap) Good in the Lord's sight.
We want to be like Jesus!
(Repeat.)



BIBLE POINT



Not all of your kids will know their numbers from one to 10. Pair up children so that those who do can help those who don't. Though your kids may not be readers, this is a word that is easy for them to learn, and they'll be proud to take home a craft that they can read.



BIBLE VERSE

Say: **Just as Jesus pleased God, God wants us to please him, too. Now let's play a game to see what it's like to resist the pull of temptation.**

Do the Bible Story



SUPPLIES: masking tape



Before this activity, use masking tape to make one X on the floor for every three children.

Form trios and send each trio to an X. Instruct each trio to choose a Resister, who will stand on the X with his or her eyes closed. Have the other two members be Temptations and stand on either side with a hand on the Resister's shoulder. Say: **When I start the egg timer, the Temptations will try to push and pull their Resisters off the X. Temptations must have their feet planted in one place so they don't move around, and they can only push and pull with one hand. If a Resister steps off the X, he or she may step back on and try again until time runs out. Then trade places, and allow one of the Temptations to be the Resister. Ready?**

Turn over the egg timer, and start the game. Play three rounds to give each person an opportunity to be a Resister. Then gather children together and ask:

• **What was hard about being a Resister?** (I couldn't see when they were going to push me; I couldn't stay on the X; they were pushing and pulling so much, I got tired.)

Say: **Just like it was hard to resist the pull of your trio members, it's hard to resist the pull of temptation. Sometimes we can't see where temptations will come from, and sometimes they're pretty strong. Fortunately, God's Word is stronger than any temptations we'll face! Jesus used verses from the Bible to help him do what was right, even when it was hard. God's Word reminded him that God is more powerful than anything. ► Jesus did what was right even when it was hard, and we can, too!**

Ask: • **How can you do what's right even when it's hard?** (Remember the Bible; pray; ask for help from my mom; walk away.)

Say: **Those are super ways to resist the temptation to do wrong! Maybe you can share your ideas with Pockets when she comes to visit today. Let's call and see if she's around. Pockets! Pockets!**



BIBLE POINT ►

Closing

Puzzled Pockets

SUPPLIES: coins, CD player

track 13



Place several coins in Pockets' pouch.

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script and the song that follows, put Pockets and the coins away and out of sight.





Pockets: *(Enters, bouncing and jingling the change in her pouch.)* Hi, everyone! Sorry I'm late. My mommy was giving me my allowance. I love to hear it jingle...but sometimes I wish there were more coins to jingle!

Teacher: Why?

Pockets: *(Stops jingling.)* Well, you see, there's this super cool sticker book that my friend Sarah has. I'd really, really, really like to have one, but it costs a lot of money. So I've been saving my allowance for two weeks so I can buy the sticker book.

Teacher: Pockets, I'm proud that you're saving your money. That can be very hard!

Pockets: *(Sighs.)* Boy, do I know it! The other day when I went to look at the sticker book, there was no one around in the store. So I took the book off the shelf and held it in my hands for a little while. Since no one was looking, I thought how easy it would be to put the book in my pouch and hop out of the store.

Teacher: Hmm. Sounds like you were fighting the temptation to do something wrong, Pockets.

Pockets: *(Sighs.)* I know. I want that sticker book, and it's taking sooo long to save for it. That day in the store, I almost stole it.

Teacher: So you didn't take the sticker book? What stopped you?

Pockets: I remembered that the Bible said not to steal. And taking the book would have been stealing. So I put it back and left.

Teacher: *(Hugs Pockets.)* Good for you, Pockets! You did the right thing, even though it must have been hard! We've just been talking about how Jesus fought temptation, too. Who'd like to tell Pockets what Jesus did? *(Allow children to share about Jesus resisting Satan's temptations. Be sure they tell Pockets that Jesus used God's Word to resist Satan.)*

Pockets: Wow! That must have been hard for Jesus, just like it was hard for me. But we both did the right thing!

Teacher: I am so proud of you, Pockets! You know what? I feel like singing, and I know just the song. Children, let's teach Pockets our Bible-verse song about doing what is right and good.

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Lead children and Pockets in singing “Right and Good” (Deuteronomy 6:18a) (track 13) to the tune of “Rise and Shine” with the CD.



SING

Do what is right
And good in the Lord's sight.
Do what is right
And good in the Lord's sight.
Do—what's—right—and
(Clap) Good in the Lord's sight.
We want to be like Jesus!
(Repeat.)



Say: **Jesus didn't let Satan push him around! Let's practice being more like Jesus. When I ask a question and point to you, stand and say “No!” in a good, strong voice.** Point to each child in turn, asking, “Will you let Satan tempt you?” Continue until all children are standing, and then ask them to join hands as you pray.

Say: **Jesus is our example of how to resist temptation. Jesus was tempted to sin, but he didn't. Jesus was perfect. We can think of Jesus every time we're tempted.**

Pray: **Dear Lord, thank you for giving us Jesus to show us how to say no when Satan tries to tempt us. We want to do what is right and good, and we know that you will help us if we ask you to. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.**



See page 5.

Victory Cheer

SUPPLIES: *cinnamon biscuits from Option 3*

Say: **Pockets did the right thing, even though it wasn't easy. We can do the right things, too, no matter how hard they are!** Hold up the cinnamon biscuits or some other treat. **You've all done a hard thing by resisting these tempting, tasty treats. Now it's time to enjoy them together!**

Distribute the treats, and allow children to eat them. Then say: **Let's close with a cheer to celebrate the fact that ► Jesus did the right thing even when it was hard. I'll tell you what Satan said, and then you'll all say, “Jesus said, ‘No way!’”**

Satan said, “Turn these stones to bread.”

Jesus said, “No way!”

“Jump from the Temple,” Satan said.

Jesus said, “No way!”

Satan said, “Bow and worship me!”

Jesus said, “No way!”

Jesus claimed a victory—

'Cause Jesus said, “No way!”



BIBLE POINT ►



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

Lively Learning: Story Circle Listening Center



Let your children enjoy listening to the stories of Jesus doing right as he grew up. Tape all four *Learning Mat: Story Circles* together to make one large circle that children can turn around as they listen to the CD. Set the *Story Circle* and the CD player in a corner of the room. The story “Jesus Grows Up” is track 19 on the CD. (There are chimes for the last three *Story Circles* that indicate when to turn the circles.)

Make to Take: Care Cards

Set out paper, glitter glue, sequins, crayons, markers, and glue. Explain that the angels came and cared for Jesus when he was tired and hungry. Have children design Care Cards for friends or family members who might be feeling sad. As children work, remind them that ► Jesus did what was right even when it was hard. Tell them that their Care Cards might give people the encouragement they need to do the right things even when it's hard.

Treat to Eat: Victory Bread

Give each child a slice of bread. Allow each child to use honey from a squeeze bottle to draw a happy face on the bread. Explain that God is pleased when we say no to temptation.



Story Picture: Jesus Overcomes Temptation

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out glue sticks, a container of ground cinnamon, and crayons. After children have colored their pictures, let them spread glue onto the desert ground and sprinkle cinnamon on top. As children are working, remind them that Jesus stood strong against temptation and used God's Word to defeat the devil.

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that Jesus did what was right even when it was hard. Children discovered that Jesus resisted Satan's temptation in a very difficult time. They talked about how they can resist temptation and choose to do what is right.

Jesus did what
was right even
when it was hard.

Verse to Learn

"Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight"
(Deuteronomy 6:18a).

Ask Me...

What did Jesus use to resist Satan?
How can God's Word help you do the right thing?
What hard things does our family face? How can God's Word help us through them?

Family Fun

Think of temptations that your child faces, such as disobeying, lying, or being unkind. Toss a paper wad at your child, and say a tempting situation, such as "not cleaning your room." Let your child use a Bible or a paper plate to shield himself or herself from the paper. Then allow your child to throw paper wads as you protect yourself with a Bible. Use this game to teach your child verses such as Deuteronomy 6:18a or James 4:7b.

Jesus Overcomes Temptation (Matthew 4:1-11)



