Review Psalm 1 and work on memory together. (Be sure to check out the video for hand motions to go along with Psalm 1!)

We are in a season of Lent in the church calendar. Traditionally, it is a time to reflect on Jesus’ 40 days of fasting in the desert followed by being tempted by Satan. We’ve compiled a lesson from The Gospel Project by LifeWay. Use what would be helpful for your family.

Warm-up: Hide and peek
Play a round of hide-and-seek with your kid(s). You will be the first seeker. Secretly peek so that you see where each kid hides. When you reach the designated counting number, find your kids easily. Ask if they know how you found them so quickly. Ask them if they are ever tempted to peek in a game like hide-and-seek. Do they sometimes peek?

Say: If you peek while playing hiding games, it is cheating and ruins the fun for everyone else. At the same time, it can be really tempting to peek a little bit to help you win the game. We face a lot of temptations from many different sources. Today we will hear a story to learn how Jesus fought temptation.

Story options:
It can be helpful to show children where in the Bible the story is found, even if you don’t read directly from it. Choose one or more ways of telling the story.

- Read it directly out of Matthew 4:1-11
- Watch the video (3 minutes)
- Read the story summary below (sticking to just the bold if you need a shorter version)
  - For a dramatic reading, stand in one spot when telling Jesus’ words. Then turn and face that spot as you speak the Devil’s words.
  - After each time the Devil tempted Jesus, pause and ask, “Do you think Jesus gave in to temptation?” Kids should reply, “No!”

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. Jesus stayed in the wilderness for many days. He prayed to God and thought about God’s plan for his life. Jesus did not eat anything while he was in the wilderness, and he was very hungry.

The Devil came to tempt Jesus. He tried to get Jesus to do wrong things. The Devil said, “If you are really God’s Son, tell these stones to become bread.” If Jesus used his power to turn the stones into bread, he could eat the bread. Then he wouldn’t be hungry anymore. But Jesus said no. He trusted God to give him
what he needed. Then Jesus said, “This is what the Bible says: Man must not live only on bread, but on all the words that God says.”

Jesus did not sin, so the Devil tried again. He took Jesus to the city of Jerusalem, and they went to the top of the temple. The Devil said, “If you are really God’s Son, prove it. Jump off the top of the temple. God will protect you.”

Then the Devil said, “This is what the Bible says: God will order his angels to keep you safe, and they will protect you so that you will not even trip on a stone.”

Again, Jesus said no. Jesus knew the Devil was trying to trick him by misusing God’s words. The Devil was being foolish. Jesus said, “The Bible also says: Do not test God.”

Finally, the Devil took Jesus to a high mountain. They could see land stretched out far and wide. The kingdoms in the land were great. The Devil said, “Look! I will give you all the money and power of these great kingdoms. All you have to do is fall down and worship me!”

Jesus said no! “Go away!” He said. “The Bible says: Only worship God, and only serve God.”

So the Devil went away. Angels came to help Jesus and serve him. In all of these things, Jesus never sinned.

Christ connection: Jesus was tempted, but he trusted God and never sinned. Jesus is perfect and righteous. A perfect sacrifice was required to take away sin. Jesus was that perfect sacrifice. He died on the cross to free us from sin and to give us the power to say no to temptation.

Review

1. Who led Jesus into the wilderness? (the Holy Spirit)
2. What did Jesus eat in the wilderness? (nothing)
3. Who tempted Jesus in the wilderness? (the Devil)
4. What did the Devil tell Jesus to do? (turn stones into bread, jump off a high place, worship him)
5. Did Jesus sin? (No, Jesus was tempted, but he always obeyed God.)

Discuss

Have you ever been tempted to sin? What happened?
Jesus knows how hard it can be to say no to sin. When we are tempted to sin, we can pray and ask him to help us. When we do fail and sin, we can repent and turn to Jesus for forgiveness.
Craft options

*Bread stones (messy)*

Supplies- three slices of white bread and two tablespoons elmer’s glue
Remove the crusts of three slices of bread. Tear them into small pieces and mix them with two tablespoons of white glue. Knead the mixture until it is a uniform consistency. Add more glue if it’s crumbly. Add more bread if it’s too sticky. Play with the dough and shape into a stone before allowing to dry.

Say: Jesus was tempted to turn stones into bread. We made stones out of bread! Jesus was hungry, but he chose to obey God. Jesus never sinned.

Memory books

Supplies- paper, scissors, tape, crayons or markers, pencils or pens
Write each verse of Psalm 1 on a small sheet of paper. Tape or glue the papers together to make a book. You may want to add small pictures to key words to help you remember.

Say: Jesus was tempted and never sinned. He trusted God and responded to the Devil’s temptations by rightly saying God’s words.

Pray

Dear God, thank you for your Word. Thank you that we can use it as a sword to fight off the Devil’s schemes. Help us fight temptation and say no to sin. Thank you for Jesus, who was tempted but never sinned. We trust in Jesus alone to save us. We love you.

Amen.