

Lent 01 - The Temptation of - Year A

Jesus is Tempted by the devil

Matthew 4:1-11

You will need to set up the room.

Go to the story shelf and get the tray marked "WILDERNESS."

Carry this box and place it down in front of you.

Before the class set the rug before you and have the mountain ready.

After Jesus was baptized, he was led by God's Spirit into the wilderness.

The Wilderness is a place that is dry and rocky.

No one lives in the wilderness.

Point to the wilderness.

We are in the wilderness with Jesus.

Take Jesus out of the box. Jesus will walk around.

He will stop for a while and pray in many places.

Jesus is in the wilderness for 40 days.

Jesus is praying.

It is rocky and dry.

Point to the wilderness.

Jesus is alone.

He came to the wilderness to spend time with God.

Point to the shelf.

Jesus was just baptized.

When he was baptized, He heard a voice tell him that he was the "Son of God"

Pick up Jesus and move him near the stone.

40 days is a long, long time.

Jesus will become very hungry.

Point to the stone.

Jesus is looking at a stone.

It is about the size of a loaf of bread.

Take the “tempter” out of the box.

**This is the one who tempts us to do wrong things.
A tempter is someone who wants us to do wrong things.
A tempter will speak to us on the inside.
A tempter will try to have us do bad things.
He will tempt Jesus.**

Have the “tempter” walk near Jesus.

**Jesus, I can see you are hungry.
Why not pick up this stone and make it into bread.
You are so hungry.**

Point to Jesus.

**I will not use power for myself.
Real food is not bread.
Real food are God’s words.
What ever God speaks, is food for me.**

Take both the tempter and Jesus and place them on top of the temple, the 4 x 4 piece of wood.

**The tempter takes Jesus to the top of the place of worship in Jerusalem
It is a tall building.
If anyone fell they would hurt themselves very badly.**

Point to the tempter.

**Jesus, jump off this building.
God will protect you.
You will not hurt yourself.
Angels will protect you.**

Point to Jesus.

**God says not to do foolish things.
Jumping of this building is foolish.
I will not demand God’s help about foolish things.**

Take both Jesus and the tempter to the high mountain.

Point to the tempter.

**Jesus, look out and see all the beautiful cities and farms.
I will give you all the cities and farms all over the world.
You will be rich and important.**

**To have all this, let me be important in your life.
Let me be the one who is important, not God.
Bow to me.**

Point to Jesus.

**Tempter, you should know better.
Only God is important.
Haven't you read that you shall worship the Lord your God!
Only worship the Lord your God.**

**Tempter, I know who you are. You're the devil.
Go away.**

Take the tempter and place the figure in the "Wilderness Box."

Immediately Jesus was not alone.

Take out the angels and place them near Jesus.

Suddenly, angels came and took care of him.

Pause. End the lesson.

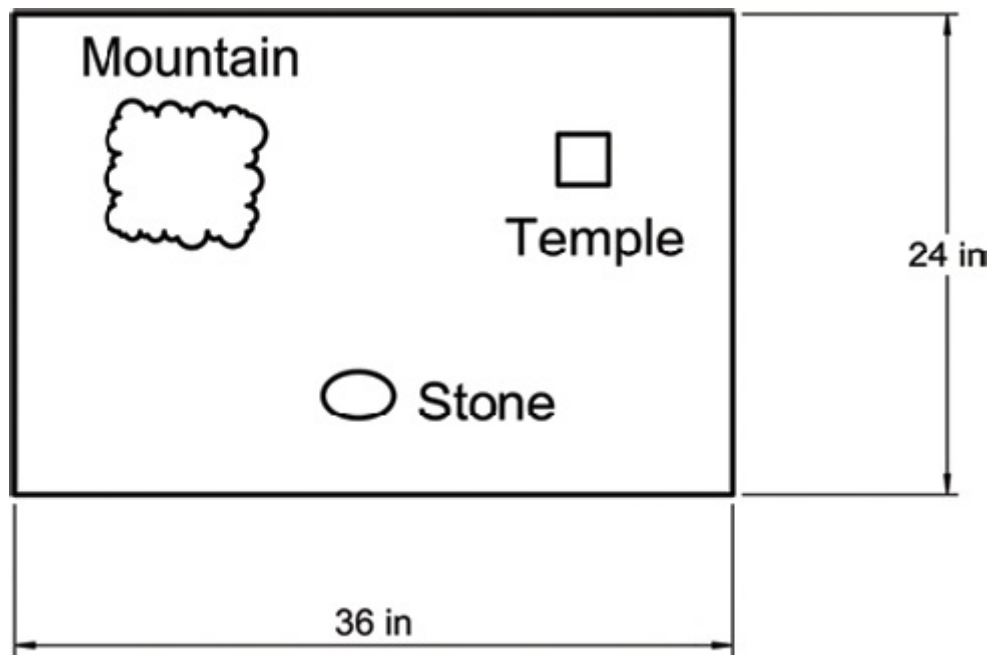
Responding to God's Word: Wondering Together

- I wonder what it felt like to be in the wilderness a long time?
- I wonder what Jesus talked to his Father about?
- I wonder what it is like to have a tempter talk to you?
- I wonder what the tempter was really trying to do to Jesus?
- I wonder what makes the tempter go away?
- I wonder how God's words are like food?
- I wonder what it would be like if we demanded God's help?
- I wonder how people might worship the Lord God?
- I wonder how the angels took care of Jesus?

Materials

1. Figure of Jesus
2. A small round stone about the size of and egg
3. Several Angels
4. A block of wood that is tall (4x4 - 12 inches tall) - If you have the model of the temple that would also work.
5. Figure for Satan - should be a royal doll, not evil looking.
6. Rug for the desert
7. You can make part of the desert rug into a high mountain with a small pillow.

CHILDREN



LEADER

Collect

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Matthew 4:1-11

After Jesus was baptized, he was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.