

Jesus' Baptism

and Temptations

Matthew 3:13-4:10



New Testament 1
Part 1: Early Life of Christ

SUNDAY MORNING

New Testament 1 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Matthew 3:13-17; 4:1-10; Mark 1:9-13; Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-13; John 1:29-34; Hebrews 2:14-18

MEMORY WORK:

“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- [“Psalm 119:11”](#)
- [“Oh, Be Careful, Little Eyes, What You See”](#)
- [“Choices”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [Jesus' Birth & Sermon](#) Bible fact cards (provided under “N.T. 1 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- “Summary of the Bible” from “[Kids Prep](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- “Matthew Chapter Summary” from “[Kids Prep](#)” CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces; seaside background
- Ministry of Jesus flannel graph
- Boyhood and Early Ministry of Jesus picture set from A Beka (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; note on card CB 3.5, angels were male humans without wings when they appeared to humans in the Bible)
- Our Friend Jesus bulletin board set

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

The devil tried to get Jesus to do wrong, just as he tries to get me to make bad choices. If I learn and remember God's Word, it will help me to resist the devil, just as Jesus did.



LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Even though Jesus is the Son of God, He still had to decide if He was going to do what's right. He gave us a great example of how to depend on God to help us make good choices.

(Pre-school teachers may want to divide the lesson into two parts. For example, teach points 1-4 on Sunday morning and points 5-9 on Wednesday night.)

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Even though Jesus is the Son of God He still faced temptations, just like we do. He gave us a great example of what to do when we face those temptations. We should learn from His example how God helps us fight off the devil.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. John the Baptizer was the last prophet (special messenger) of God to tell the Jews that the Messiah was coming. He was not a proud man who wanted lots of attention for himself. He was a poor preacher whose life was completely devoted to God. Crowds of people came out into the deserted areas near the Jordan River to hear him preach. Some chose to be baptized to show that they wanted to change and live for God. Others did not like John's preaching; they did not believe he could be a real prophet of God (John 1:19-27).



NOTE: God had been silent, not having sent any prophets for about 400 years.

2. When Jesus was about 30 years old (Luke 3:23) and ready to begin His own work (ministry), He went out to the Jordan River to see John. He told John that He wanted to be baptized, but John didn't want to baptize Jesus. He knew Jesus was God's Son and had done nothing for which He needed to repent (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15 and 7:26). John felt like he should be baptized by Jesus—not the other way around; he knew he was an ordinary man who had made mistakes. But Jesus insisted; it was important that He fulfill (complete) the prophecies that had been written about Him (John 8:29).
3. John went down into the water with Jesus and immersed Him. When Jesus came up out of the water, a dove immediately came to Jesus, and a voice from Heaven said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." This was a sign particularly for John. He knew that Jesus was the Messiah for which the Jews had been waiting for hundreds of years. Others may have heard this voice from Heaven, but it was John who recognized his work was almost done and Someone greater had finally come.



NOTE: Old Testament priests washed themselves to prepare for worship. This cleansing reminded them of the great importance of approaching Almighty God with a clean heart. Before Jesus began His work (as our High Priest), He too chose to be washed (baptized), though not for any personal cleansing.

All three persons of the Godhead were identified at the baptism of Jesus: God the Father spoke from Heaven, God the Son was baptized, and the God the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove.

4. After Jesus' baptism, He was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be **tempted** by the devil (Satan). He was in this lonely, deserted place for 40 days and 40 nights with no food. He became very hungry and physically weak. Then the devil came and tried to get Him to do wrong (to sin). He wanted to convince Jesus to do wrong so that Jesus wouldn't be perfect and sinless. If Jesus had given in to the devil, He couldn't have been our Savior! Satan tempted or encouraged Jesus to make bad choices just as he does to us. Satan might lead us to think things like, "God wants you to be happy. So you should have or do anything you want."



Tempt: To try to get someone to do something God says is wrong. This basically involves lying to someone in order to persuade him not to see the bad consequences of his actions—in this life or the hereafter.

5. Jesus was hungry, so the devil first tried to get Him to satisfy His physical needs. "If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." But Jesus knew it would be wrong to use His power to please the devil. It was more important to obey God than to have bread to eat, Jesus told him. Spiritual matters are more important than physical matters.
6. Then the devil took Jesus to the highest point of the Temple and told Him to throw Himself down and be rescued by angels—if He was really the Son of God. But Jesus told him it would be wrong to put God to the test like that. And besides, Jesus did not have to prove anything to Satan!
7. Then the Devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him all the great kingdoms of the world, promising to make Jesus an earthly king if He would just worship the devil. But Jesus told him to go away, reminding him that we are to worship God and only God.
8. Satan tempted Jesus three different times, and each time, Jesus responded with a Scripture. He said, "It is written...."
9. Jesus remembered God's Word and used it to fight the devil. The devil also used Scripture, but he used it in wrong ways. We still have to watch out for people today who use the Bible in wrong ways. That means we must study God's Word at home and come to Bible class and worship service so that we will know when others are telling us things that are not right.
10. Satan left Jesus alone for a while, but Jesus had to face temptation every day just as we do. Like Jesus, we can tell the devil to leave us alone (resist him). When we resist the devil, he will run away from us for a time (James 4:7). Remembering God's Word will help us to resist the devil.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article "[Is Christianity Logical?](#)" by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study on how Jesus, the Master Logician, defeated Satan using logic. See the articles "[In What Order Did Satan Tempt Jesus?](#)" and "[What Exactly Did God the Father Say at the Baptism of Jesus?](#)" by Eric Lyons for responses to alleged biblical discrepancies in the temptation narrative.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5

- “[Jesus’ Baptism Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Bring to class a small container filled with water and a doll that can get wet. Read John 3:23 and Mark 1:10 to the children using an ESV or ASV Bible, emphasizing that baptism requires a lot of water and that Jesus “came up out of the water” when He was baptized. Explain that the word “baptize” means “to immerse or dip.” Sprinkle the doll’s head, and ask the children if that is baptism. Pour water on the doll’s head and ask if that is baptism. Then immerse the doll, and explain that is what baptism is. When we are old enough, we can be baptized like Jesus was.
- Role play story, as appropriate

1st-2nd Grade

- Give the children Scriptures to look up that fit certain situations (lying, stealing, cheating on a test). Discuss the Scriptures and how they could help overcome those circumstances/temptations.
- “[What Would You Do?](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Jesus’ Baptism](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Grade

- “[What Would You Do?](#)” activity (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Jesus’ Baptism](#)” word search (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read Matthew 4 and John 1, as well as any of the chapters that were previously assigned in this quarter that they have yet to read.
- Have the children read any of the following:
 - *Discovery* articles (NOTE: [Advanced Bible Reader](#) quizzes exist for many issues of *Discovery* magazine): [December, 2015](#)
 - *The Story of Jesus’ Baptism and Temptation* Arch Book (DISCLAIMER: change “Spirit” to “Kingdom” on the first page; also note on the last two pages, angels were male humans without wings when they appeared to humans in the Bible)

SONGS:

“PSALM 119:11”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart](#)” CD)

“OH, BE CAREFUL, LITTLE EYES, WHAT YOU SEE” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

Oh, be careful little eyes what you see.

(REPEAT)

For the Father up above,

Is looking down in love.

So, be careful little eyes what you see.

Oh, be careful little feet where you go....

Oh, be careful little ears what you hear....

Oh, be careful little mouth what you say....

Oh, be careful little hands what you do....

“CHOICES” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Yankee Doodle”)

Everyday and in every way,

We all make our choices.

We say, “Yes,” or we say, “No,” by using our own voices.

Help us Lord to do what’s right,

Everyday and every night.

Help us Lord to do what’s right; we want to make good choices.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

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MEMORY WORK:

“Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You” (Psalm 119:11).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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- [“Psalm 119:11”](#)
- [“Choices”](#)
- [“Oh, Be Careful, Little Eyes, What You See”](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS:

- See Sunday morning lesson
- Books, magazines, pictures, and *Discovery* articles, that have pictures of animals with camouflage and/or plants that look beautiful but are dangerous

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

The devil tried to get Jesus to do wrong, just as he tries to get me to make bad choices. If I learn and remember God's Word, it will help me to resist the devil, just as Jesus did.

INTRODUCTION:

Review Sunday's lesson (see [N.T. 1 Review Questions](#) for example questions).

[N.T. 1 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “N.T. 1 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)



POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Use various materials (books, magazine pictures, *Discovery* articles) to talk about animal camouflage. Also use pictures of plants and animals which look beautiful but are actually very dangerous. Discuss how danger is often disguised. We must be very careful, watchful, and always studying God's Word to help us know what is right and wrong.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning lesson
- Role play “What Would You Do?” from Sunday morning.

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