

## Family Lesson 53

**Principle:** We must repent of sin. God was pleased with Jesus. Jesus came to save.

**Bible Character(s):** Jesus and John the Baptist

**Scripture Reference:** Luke 3:1-18, Matthew 3:1-17

- 1. Worship** - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!
- 2. Skit Video** - Watch the [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.
- 3. Bible Lesson** - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

### Bible Lesson

Last week, we learned about how God used John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus by telling everyone they needed to repent from their sins. What did Jesus come to do? (Jesus came to save people from their sins so they could have eternal life.) What else did John the Baptist tell the people to do after repenting of their sin? (He told the people to be baptized.) Baptism is an outward act symbolizing a changed heart. Did Jesus get baptized? (Yes!) It was the first thing he did to begin his ministry. God was pleased with Jesus for being obedient.

Today, we are going to pick up after Jesus was baptized to see what he does next. Let's begin reading the Bible in Matthew 4 [NLT].

#### Matthew 4:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. <sup>2</sup> For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry.

After his baptism, Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit into the desert. Jesus fasts by going without food. Fasting is giving up food or something important to you for a certain amount of time so that you can focus on God. Jesus is fasting to get ready for his ministry of teaching others about himself. Jesus fasts for 40 days! How hungry do you think he is? (Allow responses.) Let's continue reading the Bible to see what happens next.

#### Matthew 4:3-4

<sup>3</sup> During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Who is the tempter? (Allow responses.) Could Jesus turn a stone into bread? (Allow responses.) Do you think he wants to eat? (Allow responses.) Even though Jesus is very hungry, he knows that God does not want him to give into the devil. He trusts God. He knows that even though this is hard, God has a plan for him and he can trust God to provide him with all that he needs. How does Jesus respond to the devil? (He used Scripture, God's Word.)

Did you know that Satan tempts us to disobey God, just as he tempted Eve to disobey God by eating the fruit that God had told Adam and Eve not to eat? We all have a choice to give into Satan's temptations or follow God's plan for our lives. Eve had that choice. She chose to disobey God, just as all of you have chosen to sin and disobey God at some time. Adam had that choice too. He could have chosen not to eat the fruit either, but he chose to eat it. He disobeyed what God had told him and Eve not to do. Jesus also had this choice. What did Jesus choose to do? (He chose to follow God's plan, to obey.) Jesus did what Adam and Eve did not do.

He did what you and I do not do. He overcame temptation and did not sin. He lived a perfectly sinless life. Let's continue reading the Bible to see how Satan continues to tempt Jesus.

### Matthew 4:5-7

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, <sup>6</sup> and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say,

'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

How does Jesus respond to this second temptation to sin? (He chooses to obey and uses Scripture.) Satan knows Scripture as well; he quotes it to Jesus. Satan knows the Scripture, but he does not believe it. It is not enough to just know about God—you have to believe and trust in him. Jesus believes and trusts that God's plan is the best, and he fights Satan's temptation with Scripture that he not only knows, but also fully believes and obeys.

Let's continue to read from the Bible.

### Matthew 4:8-9

<sup>8</sup> Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> "I will give it all to you," he said, "if you will kneel down and worship me."

Jesus could choose to accept what Satan offers, but he chooses to wait for God's greater reward. Satan offers Jesus things that are not Satan's to offer. Satan does the same thing with us. He wants us to believe that whatever he is tempting us with is better than what God has for us. We know that God is in control of all things; we can trust him and follow his plan for our lives. How do you think Jesus responds? Do you think he follows Satan's plan? (Allow responses.)

Let's continue reading the Bible to find out.

### Matthew 4:10-11

<sup>10</sup> "Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say,

'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'"

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Jesus uses Scripture, God's Word, to fight the temptation to sin. He is tempted so that he knows how we feel when we are tempted to sin, but he never gives into the temptation of sin. We are sinners; we disobey God and give in to Satan's temptation. Jesus does not sin. He does not give in to Satan's temptation so that he can be a perfect sacrifice for us. What are some ways that you sin? (Allow responses.)

The Bible is more than just a bunch of stories about characters; it is full of practical advice and instructions from God to help us in life. God gave us his Word so that we could learn it and use it in our lives. One of those uses for Scripture is to fight the temptation to sin. This is why it's important for us to read our Bibles every day!

## Prayer

Spend some time in prayer to close the lesson. Thank God for his love and mercy, even though we do not deserve it.

## Activity

### Scripture Booklet

The purpose is to encourage your child to know the Word and trust God to defeat Satan's temptations.

#### Supplies:

- Scripture Booklet cover page with Psalm 119:11 (available on [Kids Resource Page](#))
- Five 3x5 index cards (or cardstock)
- Zip tie or key ring
- Hole punch

Help your child assemble a scripture booklet. Punch a hole in the upper left corner of the Psalm 119:11 cover page and the notecards. Bind the cards together using the zip tie or key ring. (Leave

the zip tie a little loose to allow for the pages to be turned.) Have your child decorate/color the cover. They can also write their names plus “’s” above “Scripture Booklet” to make it more personalized. (“Carson’s Scripture Booklet” for example.) Encourage them to add Scripture to the blank cards in the days ahead.

## **Tie It Together**

**In order to use Scripture to help us fight against temptation, we need to know Scripture. We cannot use it to fight against temptation if we do not know what it says about why we should not give into that temptation. God wants us to study his Word so that we can learn more about who he is as our Father, and who we are as his child, so that we can understand why we should not give into temptation to sin. Place your booklet by your bed or put it in your school backpack to use as a way to help you memorize Scripture. After you’ve memorized one verse, you can write new verses on additional cards. When you are tempted to sin, recite your verses!**

