

Lesson 11

Jesus Is Tempted by Satan

Bible Text

Mt 4:1-11, Mk 1:12-13, Lk 4:1-13

Bible Truth

Satan tempts us to sin against God.

Lesson Objectives

Students will be able to understand to rely on the power of God through prayer and on His words to overcome temptation.

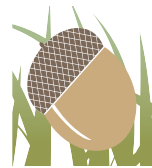
Memory Verse

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. (Mt 26:41a)

Prayer

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we pray. We thank You, Lord, for bringing us here today to worship You. Lord, sometimes the world around us is so tempting and it can be hard to do the right thing. But Lord, we know that You are all powerful. If we learn to rely on You, You can give us the strength to overcome our temptations and to do what is pleasing to You. You have given us the weapons to overcome Satan: prayers to give us spiritual power and Your words to help us make the right choices. We know we can overcome temptations just as You did when You were tempted by Satan. Hallelujah! Amen.

Before You Teach



Satan

Your students may wonder who Satan is and where he came from. It is believed that Satan was a beautiful and special angel who disobeyed God (Isa 14:12-15). Because of his disobedience and pride, he was cast out of heaven onto the earth (Ezek 28:16-18; Lk 10:18).

Satan formed his own kingdom of angels (Mt 12:24, 26; 25:41). He has worked since the time of creation to corrupt mankind in order to bring accusations against them before God. He prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour (1 Pet 5:8), tempting us to sin and to fall away from God's grace.

The world is under the control of Satan because of sin (Jn 8:34; 1 Jn 3:8). Because people cannot deliver themselves from Satan's reign by their own efforts (Mk 5:2-4; Rom 7:15-24), Jesus was sent to deliver mankind.

Jesus is the Lord, the Creator of all the earth. Jesus came into the world "to destroy the devil's work" (1 Jn 3:8). If we remain in God's grace, Satan's temptation cannot overcome the power of Jesus to keep us from sin.

Jesus demonstrated His superiority by resisting Satan's temptations and by casting out demons (Mk 3:22-27, 4:1-11; Lk 4:1-13). By His death and resurrection, Jesus shattered the power of Satan over mankind (Col 2:14-15; Heb 2:14, 15). Satan will one day receive his punishment and will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10), where he can work no more.

Satan was very cunning when he tempted Jesus. Each temptation that Satan presented to Jesus seemed to appeal to Jesus' mission on

earth. Two of the temptations began with “If You are the Son of God,” and the third temptation was to lure Jesus with authority over all the earth.

In fact, these were the exact reasons why Jesus came to earth: to show Himself as the Son of God for salvation’s sake so His elect would believe in Him, and to establish for Himself an everlasting kingdom.

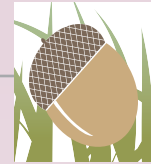
This is Satan’s guile. Satan even quoted Scripture to substantiate what he was saying. With each statement Satan made, Jesus countered by quoting from Deuteronomy, the book of the summation of God’s laws and covenant with Israel.

Reinforce to your students that Satan will work deceitfully to trick them into temptation. Satan does not appear with two horns and a pitchfork to trick them to sin, like in cartoons! The devil works relentlessly.

Even after Jesus had overcome these three temptations, Luke records that the devil “left Him until an opportune time.” He had not left Jesus alone for good. Teach your students the importance of God’s words in staying alert to Satan’s devices, being able to discern right from wrong in obvious and subtle temptations and to hold fast to God’s commands.

Help your students understand that even after they have overcome a particular temptation, the devil does not stop working and will continue to find opportunities to allure them to sin.

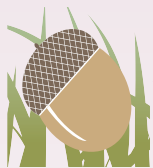
and constantly pray for spiritual power to resist temptation. As we rely on God’s words and His power, the devil will flee from us (Jas 4:7).



Vocabulary

tempt:	to try to get someone to do wrong and sin against God
Satan:	the devil; a bad spirit and enemy of God who tries to make us sin
miracle:	an event or action done by God that humans cannot do on their own; leading people to believe in His power and greatness

Understanding Your Students



In this week’s lesson, your students will learn how Jesus resisted the temptations of Satan. As we are God’s children, we are also tempted by Satan because he hates God and anyone who belongs to Him.

Satan is constantly trying to cause us to sin. The Bible also warns us, “Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Pet 5:8). Help your students understand that it is not a sin to be tempted, but it is a sin to give in and do the wrongdoings Satan wants us to do.

Fortunately, God has given us some very powerful weapons to fight temptation: His words and His Spirit.

God’s words tell us what is right and wrong. God can give us the strength to say “no” to temptation when we use His word. Jesus used the words of God twice to resist the temptation of Satan. The Bible says that His words are the “sword of the Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit can also help us to overcome temptation. We can ask the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts

Review

Last week, we learned about something very important, which can wash away our sins and make us children of God and help us get to heaven. Does anyone remember what it is? (*Getting baptized*)

Even though Jesus had done nothing wrong, He set an example for us by being baptized Himself. A man who lived in the desert baptized Jesus. This man wore clothes made of camel hair and ate locusts and honey. Who was Jesus baptized by? (*John the Baptist*)

After Jesus was baptized, what amazing things happened? (*Heaven opened, the Holy Spirit came down on Him like a dove, and a voice from heaven said, "You are my Son, whom I love; I am greatly pleased by you."*) Today, if we want to become children of God, we also must be baptized so we can one day be with God in heaven. Why is baptism so important, children? (*That's right, our sins are forgiven and we are called children of God!*)

In this week's lesson, we will be learning about someone who doesn't want us to be with God and who is trying very hard to keep us from going to heaven. This someone is Satan.

Satan will try and do anything to stop us from obeying God. He wants us to sin against God and be separated from Him so we can't go to heaven. He even tried to stop Jesus from doing what God wanted Him to do.

Today, we will learn how Satan tried to stop Jesus from doing God's work. We will learn how Jesus was able to not give in to Satan's tricks. We will see how Jesus overcame Satan's temptations by relying on God's Holy Spirit and words—two powerful weapons we can use to overcome Satan when he tries to tempt us.

Today's story is about a few conversations Satan had with Jesus. So whenever Satan is speaking in the story, I will put on a pair of horns to show what he is saying to Jesus.

Satan Tempts Jesus

After John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, the Holy Spirit sent Jesus out into the desert. For forty days and forty nights Jesus did not eat anything. Boys and girls, how would you feel if you did not eat anything for forty days and forty nights? (*Wait for students to respond.*) Very, very hungry, right? Show me what it's like when you're very, very hungry. [*Get students to act out hunger.*]

Jesus was not any different. Even though He was God Himself, Jesus was also a human being like us. After not eating for forty days and nights, he was also very, very hungry. It was after the forty days and nights that Satan came to tempt Jesus—when Jesus was weak and tired.

Satan Tempts Jesus to Turn Stone into Bread

Satan saw Jesus was feeling weak and hungry. Here was his chance to make him sin. The devil said to Jesus: "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

What might Jesus have thought? "Doesn't that sound wonderful! I can just smell that bread and feel it crunch in my mouth—just one mouthful. I am starving..."

Jesus quickly snapped out of it. (*Quickly shake head as if shaking off a thought.*) Jesus had the power to turn stone to bread but the power wasn't for Him to do whatever He liked. Jesus had an important job to do and that was to bring people to God again—not to feed His hungry stomach.

Jesus answered Satan, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

That was a close one. Jesus remembered God's words in the Bible, and a good thing, too. But Satan wasn't going to give up that easily. He had a few more tricks up his sleeves.

Satan Tempts Jesus to Throw Himself Down from the Temple

Then Satan took Jesus to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple. Have any of you ever stood at the top of a really tall building? What does it feel like? Have you ever felt your legs go wobbly? It was a long, long way down for Jesus as well, standing all the way up there on the temple roof. Falling down could really hurt.

Satan said, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here, for it is written: 'He will command His angels concerning You to guard You carefully; they will lift You up in their hands so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus could really show the world He was the Son of God if He could jump off the temple and not be hurt. Everyone would see that He was someone special, and wasn't that what He came to do—to show everyone He was the Son of God?

Satan was even tempting Jesus with words that were written in the Bible! But Jesus knew this was wrong. This wasn't how God would have wanted Jesus to make people believe in Him. He also knew it was wrong to test God by asking Him to perform a miracle just to see if God really would save Him. Jesus remembered what was written in the Bible and answered Satan, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

That was another close call. Boys and girls, Satan was not ready to give up just yet. He had one more trick that he thought might just be able to trip Jesus up.

Satan Tempts Jesus with All the Kingdoms of the World

Again, Satan took Jesus up to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. There were huge cities, magnificent palaces, beautiful gardens, as well as all the nations and their people, servants, and armies. The devil showed all the riches and glory of the world to Jesus.

Then Satan said to Jesus: "I will give You the power to rule over all of these kingdoms and their riches and glory. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. I will give You all of this...(pause for effect)...if You bow down and worship me."

Boys and girls, do you know what's wrong with this request? Do you know what Satan was asking Jesus to do?

Jesus said to him, "Away from me Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

Jesus had a kingdom for Himself, but it was not to be made of all the riches and glory of this world. It is a heavenly kingdom and not something that we can see with our eyes. Jesus knew the kingdoms Satan was promising would not last forever. Satan wanted Jesus to worship him, but Jesus knew that only God could be worshiped.

Pray for the Holy Spirit and Study God's Word

In the same way, Jesus wants us all to be able to go to the heavenly kingdom when the time comes. But Satan will try to make us love things in this world more than we love God. He will find ways to make us attracted to and get lost in the world as long as we are in the world.

Satan knows what our heart wants and will tempt us to want it more than we want to obey and worship God. If we are kids, maybe Satan will tempt us with a favorite toy or computer game so that it is all we think about, even when we are at church. When we are older, he may tempt us with money and power, so that we would rather go to the office to work and make money than come to church for Sabbath.

But we cannot take any of these things with us when we die. That's why we must always love God most of all, so we might have a part in heaven.

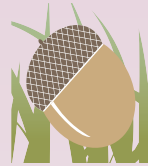
After Jesus used God's words to overcome Satan's final temptation, Satan gave up for the time being. But he hadn't quite given up for good. The Bible said that angels then came and took care of Jesus.

Just like with Jesus, even when we overcome Satan by not being tempted, Satan never gives up. He will wait until he sees another chance when we might be feeling weak or tired to try to tempt us again.

But remember that all of us have two important weapons to fight off Satan's temptations: God's

words and strength and power from praying with the Holy Spirit. As long as we keep on relying on these two weapons every day, Satan will not be able to tempt us.

Memory Verse Practice



Please reinforce the memory verse every week. You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

Check For Understanding

1. **Where did Jesus go right after He was baptized?** (Into the desert)
2. **For _____ days and nights, Jesus did not _____.** (forty; eat or drink anything)
3. **True or false: Jesus was God so he did not feel hungry after being without food.** (False: even though Jesus was God, He was also a human being like us and could feel the same things we feel, like being hungry or thirsty, tired, happy, or sad)
4. **What did Satan tempt Jesus to do with the stone?** (Turn it into bread)
5. **When Satan brought Jesus to the highest point of the temple, what did he tempt Jesus to do?** (Throw Himself down)
6. **What did Satan say would happen if Jesus threw Himself down?** (God would command His angels to hold Jesus so He would not strike His foot against a stone)
7. **Satan said that he would give Jesus all the kingdoms in the world if Jesus would do what?** (Bow down and worship Him)
8. **True or false: Satan does not know the words of God.** (False: Satan used God's words to tempt Jesus, but he did not use them in the right way—we need to know God's words very well so we can use them properly to decide between what is right and what is wrong)
9. **How did Jesus overcome all of these temptations?** (He used God's words and relied on God's power)
10. **_____ came and took care of Jesus after Satan left.** (Angels)

Spiritual Teaching & Life Application

Spiritual Teaching (1)

Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness and fasted for forty days and nights before He began His ministry. Satan's temptations can be very subtle. Satan tried to tempt Jesus with the very things He had set out to accomplish, but by incorrect means.

Life Application (1)

Before doing God's work, teach your students it is important to prepare, pray, and be led by the Spirit, just as Jesus had done. Satan will thwart our attempts to further the kingdom of God. Our ultimate victory over Satan hinges on our reliance on God. Since Satan's temptations can be very subtle. Encourage them to diligently learn God's words and to be watchful and prayerful so they are not easily deceived (2 Cor 11:3, Mt 26:41, Mk 14:38).

Spiritual Teaching (2)

Even Satan can quote Scripture, but he uses it wrongly and with ill-intent.

Life Application (2)

Encourage students to pursue God's words so they are discerning in what they hear and the life situations they may encounter (Eph 4:14; 2 Cor 4:2, 11:3). Stress the importance of receiving and being filled with the Spirit of truth so they are guided into all truth (Jn 16:13).

Spiritual Teaching (3)

Satan works harder to make us fall when we seem strong. He does not simply let up but takes every opportunity to make us fall.

Life Application (3)

"Therefore let him who thinks he stands, take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor 10:12). He did not simply let up, even when he was up against:

- the Son of God
- the One who had spiritual power from having fasted for 40 days
- the One whose mission was to destroy the devil

In fact, Satan became even more cunning by:

- quoting Scripture to substantiate his claims
- using Jesus' mission for good to entice Him to sin

Spiritual Teaching (4)

When Satan tempted Jesus and offered Him the kingdoms of the world, Jesus was able to distinguish the temporary physical kingdom that Satan

offered from an eternal spiritual kingdom.

Life Application (2)

Teach your students that in setting our hearts on material blessings we will come away with nothing, like in the parable of the rich fool. Encourage them to pursue spiritual blessings and to store away treasures for themselves, where thieves cannot steal and moths cannot eat. Remind them to seek the kingdom of God first and assure them that God will look after all their needs.

Activity 1

TV Temptations

Objective:

For children to think about the temptations they see on TV.

Beware of commercials on TV! They can tempt you to feel bad about things you don't have. Have you ever felt the way these children have?

- "Every girl and every boy wants to have a Nintendo DS."
- "This super-bike makes all the others look bad."
- "Dads and moms should buy the latest video games for their children."
- "Some students at school has an iPod touch!"

Instructions:

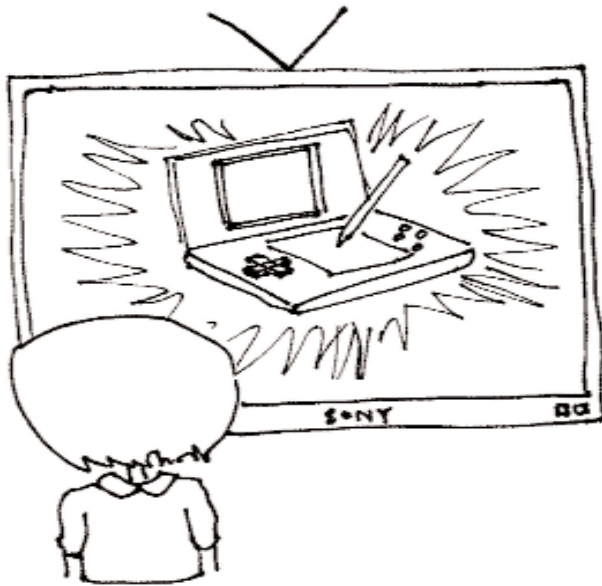
1. Copy the worksheet (see the following page).
2. Let the student think of the four scenarios.
3. Discuss how we can rely on God's words and His power to overcome these temptations.
4. Students can also bring up some other temptations that they saw on TV.
5. Teachers should remind them to seek the kingdom of God first.

Activity 2

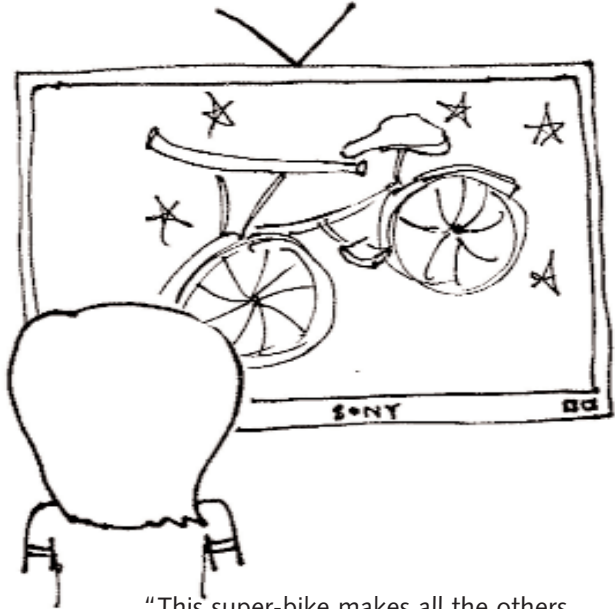
Match-up: "Satan said" ... "Jesus said"

Instructions:

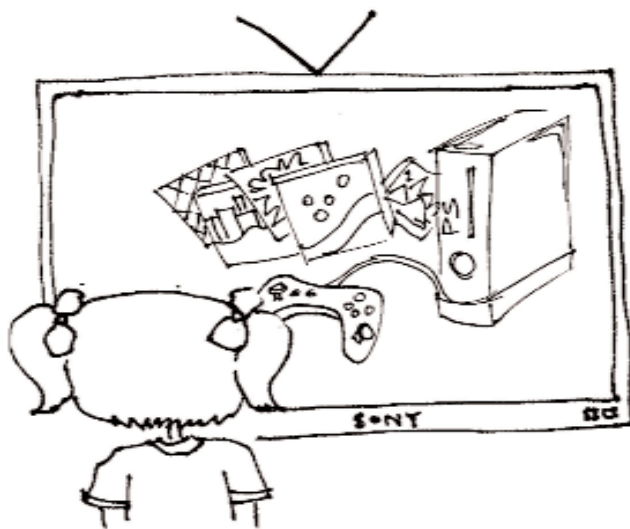
Photocopy Worksheet #1 onto paper. Color the pictures and cut them out. Have a look at the following six pictures. Match what Jesus said in reply to Satan's temptations and put them in order. These cutouts will be pasted onto Worksheet #2 (photocopied onto thin cardboard).



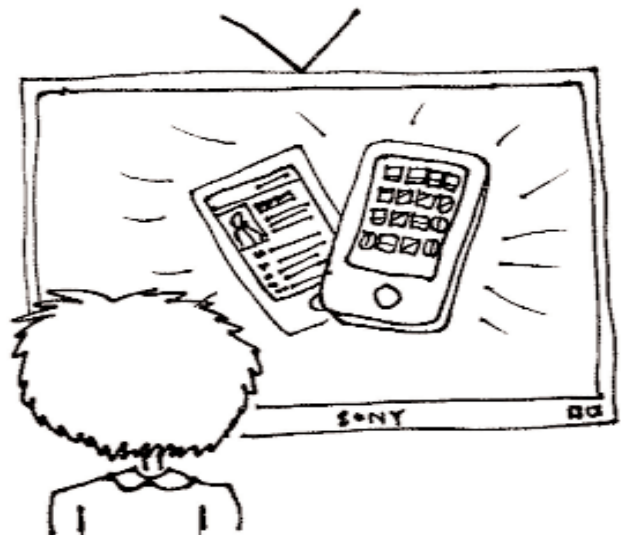
"Every girl and every boy wants to have a Nintendo DS."



"This super-bike makes all the others look bad."



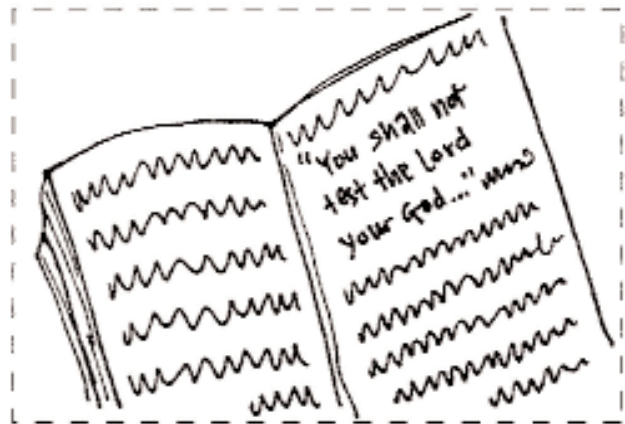
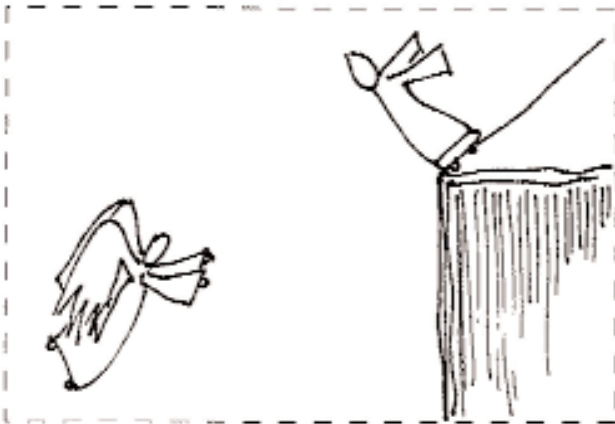
"Dads and moms should buy the latest video games for their children."



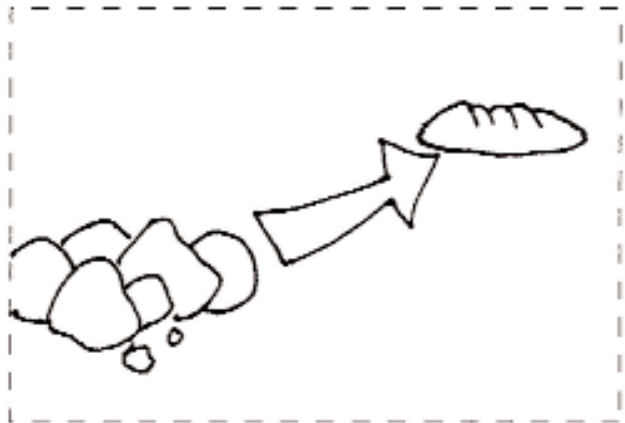
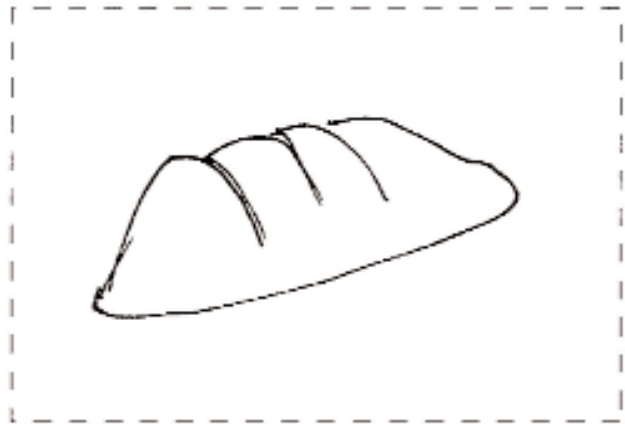
"Some students at school has an iPod touch!"

Homework Answer Key

1. Holy Spirit, wilderness
2. three, sin
3. test
4. Angels
5. c
6. b
7. T
8. T
9. Student's answer
10. Word of God, power of the Holy Spirit



TEST



Match-up: "Satan said"... "Jesus said"

"If You are the Son of God,
throw Yourself down from here."

"It is written, 'You shall worship
the LORD your God and serve Him only.'"

"It is said, 'You shall not put
the LORD your God to the test.'"

"It is written,
'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

"I will give You all these kingdoms,
if You bow down and worship me."

"If You are the Son of God, tell
this stone to become bread."

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Satan tempts us to sin against God.

Lesson Objective:

Students will be able to understand to rely on the power of God through prayer and His words to overcome temptation.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

Memory Verse: Please write down this week's memory verse

(Mt 26:41a)

What I learned from the Bible this week:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Understanding what you have learned

Homework Assignment

Year 1 Book 4 Lesson 11

Fill In the Blanks

test wilderness three Holy Spirit angels sin

1. After Jesus was baptized, the _____ led Jesus into the _____ to be tempted.
2. Satan tempted Jesus _____ times to get Jesus to _____.
3. Jesus would not jump when Satan tempted Him. He said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the _____."
4. _____ came and took care of Jesus after He had been tempted.

Multiple Choice (circle the answer)

5. Jesus fasted for _____ days and nights.
a) 7 b) 20 c) 40
6. "If You are the Son of God, command these _____ to become bread."
a) sticks b) stones c) snakes
7. **True or False** Satan brought Jesus to a very high mountain and tempted Jesus to jump down because angels would protect him. _____
8. After the temptation, Satan left Jesus for awhile and waited for another chance to tempt Jesus again. _____

Life Application

9. Satan is trying to tempt us to do wrong. When has Satan tempted you? How did he tempt you, and what did you do?

10. What are 2 important weapons that can help us overcome temptation?

