

APRIL 19, 2020
JESUS' TEMPTATION

GAME TIME

OBSTACLE COURSE

Create a simple obstacle course with items you have available. Arrange cones or chairs to weave through or step over. Position hula hoops for kids to jump into and out of, run around, or crawl through. You may use masking tape to mark a zig-zag path or hopscotch pattern on the floor. Before you begin, demonstrate how to navigate the obstacles. Invite kids to take turns completing the course—you can even time them!

SAY: Sometimes obstacles come up in life that try to keep us from following Jesus. The devil is against God and those who love God. The devil might tempt us to sin against God, but Jesus gives us power to resist temptation. Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a time Jesus was tempted.

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 4

After Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus did not eat for 40 days and 40 nights. He prayed and thought about God's plan for His life. When those days were over, Jesus was hungry. Then the devil, who tempts people to sin, came up to Jesus. He said, "If You are really God's Son, prove it. Tell these stones to become bread."

If Jesus used His power to turn the stones into bread, He could eat them so He wouldn't be hungry anymore. But Jesus refused. Instead of using His own power, Jesus chose to trust God to meet His needs. Jesus said, "God's Word says that man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

The devil tempted Jesus again. He took Jesus to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and said, "If You are really God's Son, prove it. Jump off this temple and trust God to protect You." The devil even said: "God's Word says that God will order His angels to keep You safe, and they will protect You so that You will not even strike your foot against a stone." The devil had used words from Scripture, but Jesus knew the devil's command was foolish. Jesus reminded him, "God's Word also says, do not test the Lord your God."

Finally, the devil took Jesus to a high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and how great they were. The devil said to Jesus, "I will give You all the riches and power of these kingdoms. They belong to me, and I can give them to anyone I want. If You want them, all You have to do is fall down and worship me."

Jesus resisted temptation again. He replied, "Go away, Satan! God's Word says: Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only." The devil left Jesus, and angels came right away to serve Jesus. Throughout all these temptations, 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.

PLAY WITH STONES

Take a nature walk as a family and collect rocks. Return home and place box of stones on the floor. Encourage children to stack and balance the stones. Name things the stones would be good for, such as building a fireplace, putting on the road to keep it from getting muddy, and throwing in the lake to make a splash.

SAY: The stones are hard! They are different colors and sizes. You named a lot of things to do with stones. Do you think they would be good to eat? [Allow children to respond.] In our Bible story today, Jesus was hungry and the devil told Jesus to turn stones into bread. Listen to hear what Jesus said.

