



Jesus's Baptism & Temptation

11

Key Theme

- God provides salvation from sin through Jesus.

Key Passages

- Matthew 3:1–2, 3:5–6, 3:13, 4:1–11

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe why Jesus's baptism was important.
- Explain how Jesus overcame the temptations of Satan.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will review the memory verse by putting the Memory Verse Cards in order. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a friend or to the class.



Activity 1: Jesus's Baptism and Temptation Class Notes

Students will fill out the Jesus's Baptism and Temptation Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

Jesus was fully God and fully man. In order to accomplish God's purpose for Him, He had to identify with man in every way except sin. Today we will see two ways Jesus—as God—identified with man: His baptism and His temptation. Both events occurred at the very beginning of His public ministry.



Activity 2: Think About It Bingo

Students will play a bingo game while answering questions about the lesson.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print and cut out one set of 10 Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Print on cardstock.
- Put cards into an envelope or small plastic bag for each student. Keep cards for Lessons 7–12.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Cards in envelope or small plastic bag for each student



JESUS'S BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION CLASS NOTES

- Print one Jesus's Baptism and Temptation Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Jesus's Baptism and Temptation Class Notes for each student
- Jesus's Baptism and Temptation Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Bible
- Year 2, Quarter 4, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster



THINK ABOUT IT BINGO

- Print one Think About It Bingo Questions sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- Print and cut out the Think About It Bingo cards from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. There are four different cards. Be sure to distribute all four among the students.

- Think About It Bingo Questions sheet
- Think About It Bingo cards
- Dry beans or buttons to mark the answers



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.
- Use one set of 10 Memory Verse Cards from the Come On In Activity above.
- Tape one card to the backs of 10 students.

- Memory Verse Poster
- One set of Memory Verse Cards
- Tape



Memory Verse

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

Last week we discussed Jesus's perfect obedience while on earth. His obedience in every aspect of the Law fulfilled all righteousness (Matthew 3:15), which is what God demands from all of us—perfect righteousness. This is unattainable for sinful man. But God's plan always included Jesus living a perfect, sinless life. His righteous life and substitutionary death would provide a way for us to receive His righteousness, giving us redemption from our sins and hope of eternal life with God.

In order to apply His righteousness to man, Jesus—who was fully God and fully man—had to identify with man in every way except sin. The Bible states that Jesus came in the “likeness of sinful flesh” (Romans 8:3). This means that He came, not in pre-fall Adamic flesh, but in post-fall flesh. He came with all of the weaknesses of a post-fall body, just like the stuff that you and I are made of, yet without sin.

Our lesson today reveals two very different ways Jesus—as God—identified with man during His life on earth. These events both occurred at the very beginning of His public ministry.

The first event is Jesus's baptism by John. John was baptizing and preaching a message of repentance (Matthew 3:2). The people from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan were coming to John, confessing their sins, and being baptized (Matthew 3:5–6).

John was the fulfillment of the Scriptures that spoke of one crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord (Matthew 3:3; Isaiah 40:3). And John's baptism was one of confession and repentance of sins in preparation for the Messiah. So why would Jesus want to be baptized by John? When Jesus, the sinless one, came to be baptized, it is no wonder that John attempted to prevent Him. John knew it was he who should be baptized by Jesus (Matthew 3:14).

However, Jesus had come to purchase righteousness for mankind. He would bring righteousness and redemption by living a perfect life and bearing our sins. In order to do this, He had to identify with man and his sin. And Scripture confirms this when it tells us that the perfect one, who knew no sin, became sin for us “that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). The prophet Isaiah revealed this, too, when he said that the Messiah would die, be numbered with the transgressors, and bear the sin of many

as He made intercession for sinners (Isaiah 53:12). Jesus's baptism by John represented His willingness to be identified with the people He came to save, and not only with the people, but with their sin—the sin He would soon bear Himself on the Cross.

The second event occurred immediately after the baptism. Fresh from a “victory” with an endorsement by His Father—“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”—Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Spirit where He was tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:1). Again, we see Him identifying with those He came to save. Jesus was fully man, and as such He was tempted in the same way man is. And because of this, we are assured that this sinless God-man—our Redeemer—is one who can empathize with our weaknesses because He was tempted in all points, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

The first specific temptation recorded for us came after Jesus had fasted from food for 40 days. The tempter suggested Jesus command the stones to become bread. And Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4). The ploy was to get Jesus to doubt His Father's provision and to meet a legitimate need Himself. In essence He replied, I am a man, and I cannot marginalize myself from my brethren. He had us in mind already at His first temptation.

Then the devil tested Jesus again. This time he quoted from Psalm 91:11–12 as he took Jesus to a high pinnacle on the Temple and suggested if Jesus were really God, He could jump off and God would send His angels to protect Him (Matthew 4:5–6). Again, Jesus responded with the Word of God, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God’” (Matthew 4:7). In essence, Satan said, “Show the crowd how much faith you have in your Father,” and Jesus replied, “No, I do not test God. It is my Father in heaven who tests me.”

The third test came on a high mountain where the devil promised Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He would bow down and worship him. Jesus again stood firm on the Word of God, saying, “it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve’” (Matthew 4:8–10). Jesus's response came from Deuteronomy 6 where Moses showed Israel the Promised Land and warned them not to become satiated with the land of Canaan without God. The land itself would become a curse if God was forgotten. Likewise, Jesus said to Satan that all the kingdoms of the world would become a curse without His Father.

Jesus's response to these temptations gives us a model of how to successfully overcome temptations by God's grace. Jesus responded to the devil by relying on God and His Word.

We must learn to respond in the same way. By saturating our hearts and minds with the truth, we will recognize temptations and lies that come at us in attempts to cause us to sin. We must have a firm grasp on the offensive weapon God has armed us with—the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). This will give us the strength and power we need to turn from temptations as we encounter them.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Temptation has been a problem throughout the history of mankind. In fact, giving into temptation is what brought sin into the world. Satan, in the form of the serpent, tempted Eve to disobey God and His clear command not to eat the fruit. Eve was deceived and succumbed to the temptation. Since the Fall, when Adam and Eve sinned, all of humanity has faced temptation and given in to that temptation at some point. Cain was tempted to kill his brother—he failed (Genesis 4:8). Noah was tempted to drunkenness—he failed (Genesis 9:21). Abraham was tempted to lie about Sarah being his wife—he failed (Genesis 20:2). David was tempted to adultery and murder—he failed (2 Samuel 11:4, 15). Peter was tempted to deny Jesus—he failed (Mark 14:71). You have been tempted to sin and failed.

But there was one person who did not fail—Jesus Christ. Not only did He not fail, but also He triumphed over temptation by the power of the Holy Spirit. Many aspects of the life of Jesus demonstrate His humanity. He was born, He grew in wisdom and stature (Luke 2:40), He learned obedience (Hebrews 5:8), and He was even baptized in the same manner as sinful man (Matthew 3:13–17). He can empathize with our weakness because He was tempted just as we are (Hebrews 4:14–16). Jesus identified Himself with every person who has ever walked the earth.

That common experience of temptation is described by Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:13. Rather than calling Christians to accept that they are bound to sin, God's Word offers hope to overcome the temptations that we find in the world and in our own flesh (James 1:13–15). What power do you, as a believer, have to escape these temptations? The power of the Holy Spirit! This power comes in two forms. First, since the

coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, all believers have the Holy Spirit living in them. The Spirit enables believers to obey the commands of God and escape temptation, looking to the pleasures of Christ above the fleeting pleasures of sin. Second, it was the Holy Spirit who moved the holy men of God to deliver the Scriptures to us (2 Peter 1:19–21). It is from these Spirit-given words that we know the will of God and His commands to us. When temptations come, we can fight them with the words of God we have hidden in our hearts, that we might not sin against Him (Psalm 119:11).

Jesus was able to use the words of Scripture to fend off the temptations of Satan. He had the words of truth from Scripture ready. We should follow His example. But how can we use God's Word when temptation comes upon us if we do not have it stored in our minds? Memorizing Scripture, meditating on Scripture, sitting under sound teaching, and personal study are all important aspects of living a godly life and being prepared to face temptations. As we seek to live a life of holiness and face persecution for our beliefs, we can even identify with Christ in His suffering. In many cases our opportunities to practice apologetics will come in the face of persecution and temptations. Peter calls each Christian to be prepared to suffer for righteousness' sake, telling those who ask of the hope we have in Christ (1 Peter 3:14–17). Let us all strive to be prepared so that when we draw the sword of the Spirit the words of God will be used skillfully in our hands under the divine guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Perfect, sinless Savior, you can empathize with my weaknesses because you were tempted in all points. Thank you for showing me how to overcome temptation! I love your Word. It is living and active, never stale or out-of-date. It gives me direction and wisdom. It is my tutor and comforts me in times of hardship and loss. But your Word is also my weapon—the sword of the Spirit. Your Word gives me power to overcome temptation. Please move in the hearts of my students to see the wonder of your Word. Help them to love it and learn to rely on it to fight the daily temptations they face.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will review the memory verse by putting the Memory Verse Cards in order. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a friend or to the class.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Jesus's Baptism and Temptation Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Jesus's Baptism and Temptation Class Notes for each student
- Jesus's Baptism and Temptation Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We will complete them together during class.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see that even though Jesus was God and perfectly sinless, He was also fully human and did things so He could identify with us and with the sin that we have in our hearts.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

- ? Refer to the Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster. So we have been talking about Jesus. Whose will did Jesus come to earth to do? *God the Father's.*

Yes. The Bible tells us that Jesus did not come from heaven to do His own will but the will of God who sent Him. Our memory verse reminds us of that.

- ? Let's say the memory verse together. *Recite Philippians 2:8 together.* How did Jesus come to earth? *In appearance as a man.*

Philippians 2:8

► Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

► Read the completed answers on the class notes together as you go through the lesson.

? **And how did Jesus live His life?** *He humbled Himself and became obedient.*

? **What did Jesus's perfect obedience lead to?** *Death on the Cross.*

? **So did Jesus ever sin?** *No!*

No, He didn't. Jesus was perfect and without sin. Yet He died a terrible death on the Cross as part of God's plan.

? **Since the Creation, how many people have lived perfect lives without ever sinning or disobeying?** *Only one. Jesus!*

Right! Just Jesus. We can never be perfect! The Bible says we are all sinners against a holy God. But God says in order to be saved, we must be perfect. We must be righteous.

? *Refer to Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster.* **How can we be righteous even though we sin so much?** We talked about this last week. It has to do with Jesus and what He did while on earth. We called it the "great exchange." *Allow discussion.*

Jesus lived a perfect life; He never sinned. But when Jesus died on the Cross, He took the punishment for sin. The Bible says He "became sin." He did that so that all who would believe in Him could have His righteousness. He took the sin on Himself and then took the punishment for the sin.

At the same time, Jesus's righteousness—His perfect life—was given to sinners. Jesus's righteousness makes sinners blameless in God's eyes. But remember, this is only for people who turn from their sin in repentance and believe and trust in Jesus!

Jesus became a man, and He experienced the things men experience, yet He never sinned. Jesus did things that showed us He was fully man, but without sin—He lived in perfect obedience to God. Jesus was fully God and fully Man.

? **Let's get started on our class notes. Will someone read #1 at the top of the page? How will you answer that?** *Assign a reader. God, Man.*

Today we will talk about some things Jesus did that showed us He was a man yet still obeyed God perfectly. These events happened when Jesus was about 30 years old.

Jesus was beginning to teach. He was starting His ministry. He knew His life would eventually end in His death on the Cross.

Refer to Year 2, Quarter 4, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster. Remember that Malachi was the last Old Testament prophet. And he told the people that a messenger would come and prepare the way for the Lord.

? **Who was that man who prepared the way for the Lord? Do you remember?** *John the Baptist.*

Right! John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord.

We talked a bit about John a few weeks ago. We are going to read more about him today. I am going to read from the Gospel of Matthew. *Read Matthew 3:1–2 with enthusiasm, emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

Matthew 3:1–2

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who are these verses about? *Matthew 3:1. John the Baptist.*
- ? What was John the Baptist doing? *Re-read Matthew 3:1. He was preaching.*
- ? What was he telling the people to do? *Re-read Matthew 3:2. Repent.*
- ? What does that mean? To repent? *Allow discussion.*

It means to turn away from your sins, to ask forgiveness of your sins. John was telling the people to repent, to turn away from their sins, to change their lives. John knew that the promised Messiah was already there. He was preparing the people for Jesus, the Messiah.

Listen to what this says about John and what was happening. *Read Matthew 3:5–6 emphasizing the answers to the questions.*

- ? Where was John? *Matthew 3:5. Around the Jordan River.*
- ? Where were the people coming from to hear him? *Matthew 3:5. Jerusalem, Judea, and all around the Jordan.*
- ? These people were coming from all over the area, and John was baptizing them. What were the people confessing as they were baptized? *Matthew 3:6. Their sins.*

Yes! The people were coming to John, confessing their sins, and he was baptizing them.

- ? What does “confessing sins” mean? *Allow discussion.*

To confess something means to admit that you did it. So the people were admitting they had sinned. They understood that they were sinners.

John was preaching to them about their sins so they would understand that they needed to be forgiven. This baptism—going under the water and then back up—was a sign that the people knew they were sinners. They wanted to be the true children of God. They wanted to be prepared for the Lord. That is who John the Baptist was preparing the way for—the Lord!

- ? Will someone read #2 on your class notes? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Sins.*

So John was baptizing the people—preparing them for the Lord. And guess what happened? Guess who walked up! Listen to this. *Read Matthew 3:13 emphasizing “Jesus.”*

- ? Who came to John at the river? *Jesus.*

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text.

Matthew 3:5–6

Matthew 3:13

? Why did Jesus come to him? *To be baptized.*

John tried to stop Jesus from being baptized. John knew Jesus was the Lamb of God, the Messiah! He knew Jesus had never sinned. This baptism was about confessing sins! Jesus didn't have any sins! And yet Jesus wanted to be baptized.

Why would Jesus do that? The people were being baptized, and Jesus was baptized as well to show them that He was a person who understood their sin—He *identified* with the people and with sin even though He, Himself, never sinned. Jesus was showing that He was fully man.

? Will someone read #3 on your class notes? How will you answer that?
Assign a reader. Jesus.

? And let's also do #4. Who will read that one for us? *Assign a reader. Sin.*

Discover the Truth

Refer to Lesson 10 Lesson Theme Poster. We are all born in sin. God hates sin. He must punish ALL sin! Only Jesus lived a perfect, sinless, righteous life. When Jesus died for sinners, He took God's punishment for sin. Jesus's perfect righteousness is given to every sinner who repents of his sins, believes in Him, and accepts His salvation.

When He was baptized, Jesus showed that He understands man and man's sin. Jesus wanted to be baptized. Through baptism, Jesus was identifying with man's sinfulness, although He had never sinned.



READ THE WORD

Matthew 4:1-2

Something else happened to Jesus that showed in a very real way that He was fully man. I'll read about that now. It is in Matthew 4:1-2. *Read Matthew 4:1-2 emphasizing the answers to the questions.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

? Who are these verses about? *Matthew 4:1. Jesus.*

? Where was Jesus led? *Re-read Matthew 4:1. To the wilderness.*

? Why was He led out into the wilderness? *Matthew 4:1. To be tempted by the devil.*

? What does it mean to be tempted? *Allow discussion. To seriously think about doing wrong. Wanting to sin.*

? Jesus was led to the wilderness. The devil was going to tempt Jesus to sin! Do you think Jesus would sin? *Allow discussion.*

No. I don't think so! Jesus was the only man who ever lived who NEVER sinned. But we are going to find out what happened, how Jesus was tempted and what He did about it!

Listen carefully as I read Matthew 4:3–4. This is the first of three temptations we will read about. *Read Matthew 4:3–4.*

Matthew 4:3–4

? Who is the tempter we are reading about? *Matthew 4:3. The devil. Satan.*

Jesus had been fasting—not eating any food—for forty days. That's longer than a whole month! He was hungry! And this is when the devil—the tempter—came to Him.

? What did the tempter tell Jesus to do? *Re-read Matthew 4:3. Turn the stones into bread.*

? Jesus must have been very hungry. He probably would have liked some bread—even bread made from stones! But how did He answer? *Re-read Matthew 4:4. He said, "It is written, 'man shall not live by bread alone.'"*

? And what else should man live by according to this verse? *Matthew 4:4. Every Word that comes from God.*

When Jesus answered the tempter He said, "It is written."

? What was written? What was Jesus talking about? *Hold up your Bible for a hint. The Bible. God's Word.*

Jesus was talking about God's Word. Jesus used God's Word to overcome the temptation to sin against God.

? Will someone read #5 on your class notes? How will you finish that statement? *Assign a reader. Word.*

Well, the devil wasn't finished with Him yet. There was a second temptation. Listen to this carefully, and we will answer some questions about it. *Read Matthew 4:5–7 enthusiastically.*

Matthew 4:5–7

? This happened in the holy city. But where were they in the city? *Matthew 4:5. On the pinnacle of the Temple.*

The pinnacle would be the highest point of the Temple. They were up very high, and there was probably a very long drop to the ground. They were looking down on the city.

? What did the devil tell Jesus to do? *Re-read Matthew 4:6a. Throw yourself down off this Temple and see if God will protect you!*

The devil was tempting Jesus's faith in God! He was telling Jesus to "test" God by jumping off and seeing if God would save Him. The devil wanted Jesus to "prove" that God was telling the truth in His Word.

? But what did Jesus tell the devil? *Re-read Matthew 4:7. "It is written again! 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'"*

? Take a look at #6 on the class notes. What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Written.*

Matthew 4:8-11

Jesus used God's Word to overcome the devil's temptations and say "no!" to sin. Jesus told the tempter, "It is written." The Word says you shall not tempt the Lord your God! Jesus knew what was written in God's Word. And Jesus used the Word and did not give in to sin.

Now let's read about the third temptation. *Read Matthew 4:8-11 emphasizing the answers to the questions.*

- ? Where did the devil take Jesus this time? *Matthew 4:8. To a very high mountain.*
- ? What did the devil show Jesus? *Re-read Matthew 4:8. All the kingdoms of the world and their glory!*
- ? What did the devil promise Jesus? *Re-read Matthew 4:9. All the kingdoms could be His.*
- ? Right! He would give Jesus all the kingdoms. But what did he want Jesus to do? *Re-read Matthew 4:9. Bow down and worship the devil.*
- ? How did Jesus answer the devil? *Re-read Matthew 4:10. He told the devil to get away!*
- ? And then what did Jesus say? *Re-read Matthew 4:10. "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.'"*

Again, Jesus knew God's Word! "It is written," He said. "You shall worship ONLY God and serve ONLY Him."

- ? Will someone read #7 on your class notes? How will you complete that? *Assign a reader. Only.*

Discover the Truth

Do you see? Jesus used God's Word to overcome the devil's temptations. Jesus told the tempter three times, "It is written." And then He used a part of Scripture. Those verses kept Jesus focused on God and His Word and not on the temptation. Jesus knew God's Word and trusted it to help Him while He was being tempted.

- ? How did Jesus do against the temptation of the devil? Did Jesus sin? Someone read #8. How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Never.*

Jesus never sinned! God used these temptations of Jesus so that Jesus would understand—identify with people and their sin. We are tempted every day to sin against God. And Jesus was tempted, too. The difference between Jesus and us is that Jesus was able to say “no!” and stop the temptations completely—He did not sin! We, on the other hand, often say “yes!” and sin every day. That is why we need Jesus. That is why Jesus had to come as a man so He could take the punishment for sinners who believe in Him and offer forgiveness and eternal life to them.



Think About It Bingo

MATERIALS

- Think About It Bingo Questions sheet
- Think About It Bingo cards
- Dry beans or buttons

INSTRUCTIONS

Pass out one Think About It Bingo card and beans to each student. Ask the questions from the question sheet. Allow students to answer the questions and put a bean on ONE block with the correct answer on their card. When someone fills in a row on his card, he should say, “Bingo!” Keep track of the questions and answers you ask to check the winners. Students can trade cards and repeat the game as time allows.

We are going to play a Bingo game. This game will be a fun review of what we’ve

talked about today. Use the posters and your class notes to help you answer the questions.

You can only put one bean down at a time even if the answer is on your card more than once. When you get a whole row of beans, you may shout, “Bingo!” Here we go! Play the game.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Good going! Jesus was fully God and fully man. The two events we talked about today—His baptism and His temptations—showed us that Jesus could identify with man in every way.





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class using this activity.

MATERIALS

- One set of Memory Verse Cards from Come On In Activity
- Masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Allow students to look at the Memory Verse Poster and say the verse together as a class a couple of times. Remove or cover the poster before the game begins. Tape the Memory Verse Cards onto 10 students' backs. Students will work together to put themselves in order according to the memory verse. Once they think they are standing in order, check the verse by reading the words out loud according to how they are standing.

If you have fewer than 10 students, tape more than one card in the proper order, on some students. If you have more than 10 students, assign the students without the cards to put the students with the cards into the proper order. Repeat if time allows.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say the verse together a couple times. *Cover the poster before starting the game.*

Tape the 10 cards on the students' backs. Now I am going to tape these 10 Memory Verse Cards to 10 backs! Once I have done that, I want you to work together to get into the right order.

We'll check the verse when you are finished. You have to work together and help each other get in order. *Most groups may need a time limit to encourage them to move at a quick pace. If so, let them know the limit and use a timer to count down the time. Once the students think they are in the right order, check them by reading the words out loud.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Our verse reminds us that even though Jesus was fully God, He humbled Himself, came to earth, and obeyed even to death. Jesus was born in a humble and simple way, knowing that He would die on the Cross one day to save sinners.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. The people were coming to John the Baptist, confessing their sins, and being baptized. And then Jesus came to be baptized as well. John the Baptist knew who Jesus was. He did not want to baptize Jesus. He knew Jesus was fully God and fully man.

But Jesus was baptized, and His baptism showed that He was willing to be identified with the sinful people He came to save.

Jesus was also tempted, like we are, but He did not sin. Jesus used God's Word to overcome the devil's temptations. Jesus told the tempter all three

times, “It is written.” He used the Scriptures He knew and trusted—God’s Word—to send the tempter away.

Jesus understands our struggles each day to say “no!” to sin and be obedient to His Word. And it was God’s Word that kept Jesus focused on God so He could say no to sin.

We can trust God’s Word, too. It will help us overcome the temptations we face. But we need to know His Word before it can help us. That is the challenge!

GOD’S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The Bible says we are all sinners. We are all tempted every day. And when we give in to temptation, we sin. In today’s lesson, Jesus showed us how we can resist temptation.

? What did Jesus do when He was tempted? What did He depend on? *The Word of God.*

Yes! He used the Word of God. And that is how we can battle against the sin in our lives, too! We must fight sin with God’s Word.

We’ll never overcome sin perfectly like Jesus did, but we can use the power of God’s Word to do better and better. The more you learn God’s Word, the better you become at spotting the sin in your life. Then when you are tempted to sin, the Holy Spirit will help you use God’s Word to fight against it and win!

We can all do better when it comes to knowing God’s Word! We need to know it well in order to overcome the temptation to sin. And that means being serious about learning and memorizing Scripture.

Let’s start today by agreeing to memorize our memory verse, Philippians 2:8. We have two more weeks before we get a new verse. We can do it!



➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.

Group Prayer Time

- Praise God for His perfect and sovereign plan to send Jesus as God in the flesh.
- Thank God for Jesus’s perfect example of how we can overcome temptation—using the Word of God.
- Ask God to move our hearts to want to learn His Word and to memorize it.

