Lesson at a Glance

HE IS HUMAN

The UNIQUENESS of Jesus
LESSON 4

LESSON TEXT

Luke 4:1-13

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The students will identify the three areas in which Satan tempted Jesus.
- The students will describe how Jesus relates to our struggles and how he wants to help us.
- The students will share one of their personal struggles with another member of the class.

MATERIALS NEEDED

For each student:
- pen or pencil

For the teacher:
- 3 pieces of poster board
- black marker
- colored markers
- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world
- a clear jar of ants, preferably real ones, but plastic will do
- posters from preclass activity—"Satan's Points of Attack"
- a ball that can easily be tossed among students
- 12 sheets of blank paper
- construction paper
- scissors
- colored pencils

Reproducible Pages:
- Page A, 1 copy for each student

LESSON PLAN

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
- Teacher Focus
- Teacher Tips

Preclass Activity: Poster—"Satan's Points of Attack"

Starting Up
- Welcome and Singing
- Opening Prayer
- Victories
- Good News from the Kingdom

Getting into God's Word

Story: Ants in a Jar
Scripture Study
Activity: #1 Struggle Toss
#2 Encouraging Card

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Hebrews 4:15
Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
Conclusion

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

GETTING READY

FAITHFUL INSTRUCTION

TEACHER FOCUS

The goal of the lesson is for the students to appreciate that Jesus knows and understands our struggle with sin, but that he never sinned.

TEACHER TIPS

Read Isaiah 53:1-12. This is an incredible passage! Do you grasp that Jesus became totally human to show us God's love?

PRECLASS ACTIVITY

POSTER—"SATAN'S POINTS OF ATTACK"

Temptations come in different forms to us all. For preteens and teens, the three main areas are (1) Dares, (2) Wants and (3) Popularity. Examples are (1) a dare to leave your house when your parents are not home, (2) a want such as a CD player and (3) popularity desired such as wanting to be a cheerleader or football player.

MATERIALS USED

For the teacher:

- 3 pieces of poster board
- black marker
- colored markers

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Before class begins, label each piece of poster board with one of the following titles: (1) DARES (2) WANTS (3) POPULARITY
2. Place each poster at separate places in the room.
3. As the students arrive, divide the students into three groups and have them discuss and list on the poster all the ways they and their peers struggle in that particular area.

Getting Ready

Starting Up

Welcome and Singing

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

Opening Prayer

Open with one of the students praying for one or two minutes. Ask each of the students to share a situation since last week in which they used God's word to make the right choice.

Victories

Take time to have the students share about the challenges they were given at the end of last week's class. *Did everyone complete their challenge? How did it go? What fears did you face as you met the challenge to put the lesson into practice? How did everyone do with having consistent quiet times? Who would like to share something they learned?*

Good News from the Kingdom

Materials Used

For the teacher:

- 1 copy of "Good News from the Kingdom"
- globe or map of the world

Instructions

Now let's take a few minutes to share "Good News from the Kingdom." Be excited as you read about what is happening around the world. Have a globe or map ready, pointing out the location as you share.

Getting into God's Word

Story

Ants in a Jar

Today you will tell the students a story about loving your "pet" ants and wanting to communicate your love to them. But they don't seem to care or understand. Then you will make the analogy about God sending Jesus to be human so he could communicate God's love to us.

Materials Used

For the teacher:

- a clear jar of ants, preferably real ones, but plastic will do
- posters from preclass activity—"Satan's Points of Attack"

Instructions

1. Take the posters that students did in the preclass activity and hang them on the wall or place them on a table near you.
2. Tell the ant story.
3. Read scripture text and discuss questions.

Bring out the jar of ants you have collected. Show them off to your students, and tell them how they are your favorite pets. Set the jar on the floor in the center of the group and begin talking to the ants, telling them how much you love them and calling them your "beautiful, precious ants." Caress the jar, kiss it, and tell the students how you love the ants so much and would do anything for them. You may want to have a "treat" such as candy or some other gift and try to give it to the ants.

Describe your gift to the ants: *"See my precious ants? I brought you a nice piece of delicious chocolate to eat! It's the most expensive chocolate I could buy for you because I love you so much!"* Talk about how you frequently do all kinds of things for your ants, but they don't seem to understand you. Tell the students you wish you could pick up each ant in the jar and hug it and kiss it and pet it, but all the ants ever do when you try is bite you. Tell the students that the ants do not seem to appreciate the gifts, that they do not seem to understand your deep love for them, and ask the students if they know why. After listening to their answers, share the following:

Trying to communicate my love for the ants in the jar is a lot like God and Jesus trying to express their love for us. Jesus became a human being to communicate his love for us and to be able to relate to us, much like if you were to become an ant to better communicate to your "precious" ants. While I was just pretending to love the ants, Jesus did love us enough to do just that. Because Jesus became a human being, he can relate to our struggles and our temptations.

Help the students to understand that Jesus was once their age and dealt with many of the same struggles they face today. Jesus understands!

Getting into God's Word

Scripture Study

Q #1: *Did you know that Jesus struggled in all these same ways that you do?*

A #1: He did! Discuss why they think he did or did not.

Read Luke 4:1-4

Q #2: *What was Satan trying to tempt him with when he wanted him to turn the rock to bread?*

A #2: Jesus was hungry and wanted to eat, but would he trust God to give him food when he needed it or would he try to take care of himself? *How do we struggle with this same thing?* Refer to the poster of "WANTS."

Read Luke 4:5-8

Q #3: *What temptation was Satan putting in front of Jesus this time?*

A #3: Popularity and power. Satan was offering him friendship with the world instead of persecution for not being part of the world and being obedient to God. *How does Jesus relate to our struggle of wanting to be popular?* Refer to the poster labeled "POPULARITY."

Read Luke 4:9-12

Q #4: *What was the final temptation Satan brought to Jesus ?*

A #4: Pride and "dares." He challenged Jesus to prove who he really was. It seemed to be the right thing to do at first, but Jesus saw through the lies of Satan. We also have people in our lives who make us think things are acceptable by twisting the truth. Refer to the sheet labeled "DARES."

Q #5: *How did Jesus fight off temptation?*

A #5: He used God's word. Knowing God and his word (and obeying it) is an effective weapon against temptation.

Q #6: *Why was it necessary for Jesus to be tempted?*

A #6: For Jesus to be fully human he had to face temptations like we do so he could under-

Activity 1

Struggle Toss

Materials Used

For the teacher:

- a ball that can easily be tossed among students

Instructions

1. Have the students form a circle.
2. Give one of the students the ball.
3. Tell the student with the ball to tell a temptation that kids their age struggle with.
4. Then he or she tosses the ball to someone else who gives a solution and tells how Jesus would help with that struggle.
5. The ball should then be tossed to someone else who tells a struggle.
6. If possible, repeat until everyone has had at least one turn to tell either a struggle or an answer.

Activity 2

Encouraging Card

When people have a struggle of some sort in their lives, they are encouraged to know that someone cares. If time permits, have the students make a card to encourage someone.

Materials Used

For each student:

- pencil

For the teacher:

- construction paper
- markers
- scissors
- colored pencils

Instructions

1. Bring out the construction paper, markers, scissors and colored pencils.

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.
Hebrews 4:15

Materials Used

For the teacher:
- 12 sheets of blank paper
- black marker

Reproducible Pages:
- Page A, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

On each sheet of blank paper write one segment of the memory verse, dividing it as follows:
For we do not / have a high priest / who is unable / to sympathize / with our weaknesses, / but we have one / who has been tempted / in every way, / just as we are— / yet was / without sin. / Hebrews 4:15

Instructions

1. Hand out a copy of Reproducible Page A to each student.
2. Have the students say the memory verse aloud several times while looking at their memory verse sheets (Reproducible Page A) when needed.
3. Hand out the "segment" sheets to 12 students or if you have less than 12 students, give some students more than one sheet.
4. Have the students stand in the correct order to be able to say the memory verse with each student reading his or her part. (If the students are holding more than one sheet and the "stretch" is impossible, they can switch papers with other students).

Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you explain to them the challenge for the week. Give them the following challenge: Call someone in the group during the week to pray about a struggle you are having that day.

Conclusion

End the class with a prayer of gratitude to Jesus.

Lesson at a Glance supplement

He Is Human

Lesson Text

Matthew 27:11-14

Lesson Objectives

- Using Hebrews 4:15 and Matthew 27:11-14, the students will see that we need to turn to Jesus to have victory over our sin.
- The students will each list a struggle they want to be victorious over.
- The students will write down during the week how Jesus helped them to be victorious over their specific struggles.

Materials Needed

For each student:
- pencil or pen
- 1 sheet of cardstock paper

For the teacher:
- basket or bowl
- 1 small piece of paper for every 2 students
- small prize for each student
- black marker
- 2 yards of cloth (with different designs the students can cut out)
- several pairs of sharp fabric scissors
- 1 sheet of blank paper for every 6 students
- 1 pencil or pen for every 6 students
- 1 index card

NOTE: Invite a guest speaker to share a life-struggle which they overcame with help from Jesus.

Lesson Plan

Getting Ready

Faithful Instruction
- Teacher Focus
- Teacher Tips

Preclass Activity: #1 Connect-the-Dots Game
#2 Thank-You Cards

Starting Up
- Welcome and Singing
- Opening Prayer
- Great News Sharing

Getting into God's Word

Scripture Study
Activity 1: Ask Each Other
Activity 2: Guest Speaker

Getting It to Others

Scripture Memory: Hebrews 4:15
Weekly Challenge and Snack Time
Conclusion

Scripture Memory Verse

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

Getting Ready

(Supplement)

Faithful Instruction

Teacher Focus

The focus of this lesson is victory over sin. Jesus never sinned and was always victorious over sin.

Teacher Tips

During the previous lesson, the students learned about Jesus' struggles with temptation from Luke 4:1-13. They looked at how Jesus' temptations and challenges were similar to theirs. One of the objectives of the lesson was to show the children that Jesus relates to their daily struggles. To accomplish the objectives, the students made lists of (1) dares that peers give, (2) wants that they have, and (3) ways people seek to be popular. They then considered the account in Luke 4 and saw that Jesus was tempted by Satan in the same three areas. Additionally, the students played a game that helped them share struggles that kids their age have and to give Jesus-type solutions for those struggles.

Everyone loves winning. Our students are yearning for the kind of leadership that takes them to victory. We need to help them see that Jesus was the ultimate victor over all sin! In this lesson text we see Jesus being victorious. Does your life reflect Jesus as your victor? In 2 Corinthians 2:14-15, Jesus leads us in triumphal procession. Are you allowing Jesus to give you victory over your struggles?

Preclass Activity 1

Connect-the-Dots Game

The purpose of this game is to emphasize that everyone wants to be a winner (everyone will be a winner and will receive a prize). The goal is to impress upon the students that with Jesus we are winners because he will give us victory over sin and temptation in our lives.

Materials Used

For each student:
- pencil or pen

For the teacher:
- basket or bowl
- 1 small piece of paper for every two students
- black marker
- small prize for each student

Reproducible Pages:
- Page B, 1 copy for every two students

Preparation

1. With the black marker, put a dot on each piece of paper.
2. Fold the pieces of paper, and put them in the basket.

Getting Ready

(Supplement)

Instructions

1. Upon arrival of the students, the teacher will hand out one copy of Reproducible Page B (Connect-the-Dots Game) to every two students.
2. The teacher will explain to the students that there will be a chance for a prize.
3. As each team finishes their game, they are given the opportunity to draw one piece of folded paper from the basket.
4. After all of the students have finished, the teacher announces that those holding a piece of paper with a black dot on it are the winners.
5. In this game, everyone wins! The teacher then hands out prizes for all of the teams.
6. Directions for the Connect-the-Dots Game are as follows:
   - Player 1 connects two dots horizontally or vertically.
   - Player 2 does the same.
   - The player who draws a final segment of a box places his or her initials inside the box.
   - Continue until all dots are connected and there is an initial in every square.

Preclass Activity 2

Thank-You Cards

Materials Used

For each student:

- 1 sheet of cardstock paper

For the teacher:

- 2 yards of cloth (with different designs the students can cut out)
- several pairs of sharp fabric scissors

Instructions

1. Give each student a sheet of cardstock paper, folded in half.
2. The students will use material strips to decorate the front of the card.
3. On the inside, they will write a thank-you note to the featured guest speaker who will visit later in the class.

Starting Up

Welcome and Singing

Call the students together in a circle. Welcome everyone by name, being sure to recognize anyone who is visiting. Let them know how glad you are to see them, and how much you looked forward to being with them. Sing a few great songs.

Opening Prayer

- Open with one of the students praying for one to two minutes about how Jesus was always victorious over sin

Getting into God's Word

(Supplement)

Scripture Study

The students will learn more about how Jesus overcame temptations and about how we can overcome too.

Activity 1

Ask Each Other

The students will formulate discussion questions using Matthew 27:11-14 and Hebrews 4:15 as their texts.

Materials Used

For the teacher:

- 1 sheet of blank paper for every 6 students
- 1 pencil or pen for every 6 students

Instructions

1. Divide the students into teams of six.
2. Assign one of the following scriptures to each team: Matthew 27:11-14 and Hebrews 4:15.
3. Give the students five minutes to come up with discussion questions to ask the other team.
4. Teachers will need to direct the students' discussion to keep it focused.
5. Below are sample questions from each passage.

Matthew 27: 11-14

Focus - Jesus was being tempted but didn't sin.

1. Define "accused."
2. Being falsely accused may hurt our feelings but why shouldn't we allow it to dictate how we act?
3. It was over 2,000 years ago that Jesus was accused personally. How can we relate today?
4. Was it hard or easy to stay sinless?
5. How did Jesus respond? Did he sin?
6. How can we be victorious like Jesus?

Hebrews 4:15

Focus - Jesus never sinned.

1. Define "sympathize."
2. How can Jesus sympathize with us?
3. Was Jesus tempted?
4. Did Jesus ever sin?
5. How can Jesus relate to us?
6. Was Jesus a winner?
7. Did Jesus ever fail?

Getting into God's Word

(Supplement)

Activity 2

Guest Speaker

It is important that the students see concepts come alive in the lives of real people. The guest speaker will emphasize the power that Jesus gives us to overcome or to change.

Materials Used

For the teacher:

- 1 index card

Preparation

1. Invite a strong disciple to share with the class. The best choice would possibly be a teen leader or campus student who is mature in his or her faith, and a little closer to their age than an adult. You may want to ask your ministry leader to suggest someone.
2. Ask the disciple to share about a major sin that they couldn't overcome until Jesus helped them (for example: smoking, bulimia, anorexia, drugs).
3. Find out something about the person's interests so you can introduce him or her to the students.
4. Write out the following instructions on an index card and give it to the speaker ahead of time to help him or her prepare:

Scripture references: Matthew 27:11-14; Hebrews 4:15
Focus: Jesus makes us be victorious (winners) over sin and temptation in our lives.
Personal application: Share about an area of your life in which Jesus gave you the power to overcome and to change. Let the students know how powerless you felt to change or to stand up to temptation on your own.
Length of talk: 8 to 10 minutes (Please stick to the time limit!)

Instructions

1. Introduce the guest speaker, telling the students something about his or her life. Include any interests that the students will especially relate to.
2. After the speaker has shared, have the students present thank-you cards to him or her.
3. After the speaker leaves, discuss the following questions with the students:

Q #1: What part made the most impact on you?
Q #2: How did he or she overcome this struggle?
Q #3: What do you want to imitate about this person?

Getting It to Others

(Supplement)

Scripture Memory

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.
Hebrews 4:15

Instructions

1. Form two teams and have a scripture drill.
2. Call out the reference to a team and ask them to recite the verse (working together).
3. See which team can recite the most memory scriptures from this unit.
4. The other three memory verses are as follows:

   In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
   John 1:1

   There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.
   John 12:48

   For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth.
   Colossians 1:16a

Weekly Challenge and Snack Time

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it while you remind them of the challenge for the week. The students were asked to call someone in the group during the week to pray about a struggle they were having that day. Ask the students to share victories they had over struggles this week.

Conclusion

End the class with a prayer asking God to help us overcome our struggles and temptations, and to be faithful (loyal) to Jesus.

Weekly Challenge

Call someone in the group during the week to pray about a struggle you are having that day.

REPRODUCIBLE PAGE A

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

HEBREWS 4:15

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

Call someone in the group during the week to pray about a struggle you are having that day.

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Reproducible Page B

Connect the Dots