

## Grades 4-5 Teacher Guide

### GOD'S WORD

*How Do I Use the Bible?*

*GRAD 101, Week 7*

**February 14, 2021**

---

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 4

**Take Away:** God's people can turn to the Bible for guidance in any situation.

**February Memory Verse:** "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." *John 3:16-17*

---

### THINK

**Materials:** "Help!" strips; music on phone or CD; sticky notes

#### Simultaneous Charades

Explain that today we will be exploring where people go for help and encouragement. Invite students to play a game that matches needs and helpers. Give each student one of the "Help! Strips." Explain that each strip has the name of either a need or a helper. When the music starts, everyone should begin to pantomime the need or the helper on his strip. Students may freeze when they believe they have found their match.

Start the music from your phone or a CD. Stop the music when most pairs have formed. Invite pairs to share their pantomimes and reveal their identities.

**Ask:**

- Did any of the pairs not have the correct match?
- What happens when you seek help from the wrong person? (*You don't get the help you need, and you may be in worse trouble than before.*)
- Why do you turn to certain people when you need help? (*They have expertise, so you can trust them.*)
- Who do you turn to for help? Write the titles of these people on a large sheet of paper. Encourage the kids to use titles and not name specific names. (*Examples: teacher, parent, pastor, best friend, and so forth.*)

Invite students to rank the people in order of whom they would seek first when they need help.

## **Make It Stick**

Give each student two sticky notes. Ask students to consider two areas of their lives in which they need help or strength. Examples: dealing with parents, controlling a temper, getting along with friends. Encourage students to write these areas on the sticky notes.

Instruct students to think about where they would go for help with these problems. Direct them to tuck the notes inside their Bibles for later use.

## **READ**

**Materials:** Bibles

### **Study the Bible: Matthew 4**

Instruct students to locate **Matthew 4** in their Bibles. Ask students what they know about Matthew.

Share this information about the Book of Matthew:

- It was written by one of Jesus' closest followers, Matthew.
- Matthew was a tax collector, so he was not well liked.
- The book begins with Jesus' family history and His birth in Bethlehem.
- Matthew explains how Jesus' cousin, John, preached about Jesus' coming. John urged people to confess their sins and be baptized.
- The Book of Matthew details Jesus' ministry, miracles, crucifixion, and resurrection.
- Remind students that Jesus had not yet begun His public ministry when Matthew 4 begins. His cousin, John, had just baptized Him.

Invite a volunteer to read verse 1.

Explain that before Jesus began His ministry, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert to pray for 40 days. After 40 days, the devil visited Him and tempted Him.

#### **Ask:**

- What does the word tempt mean? (*to try or test, to entice to do wrong*)
- Are you ever tested or enticed to do something wrong?
- How could Jesus, who was perfect, be tempted? (*He was fully God and fully human; Hebrews 2:18 says that Jesus was tempted "so that He is able to help those who are being tempted."*)

Emphasize that temptation is not a sin. Temptation can lead to sin, but Jesus never sinned.

**Option 1:** Continue reading in Matthew 4 through verse 11.

**Option 2:** Form three groups and assign one of the following passages to each group: Matthew 4:1-4; Matthew 4:5-7; Matthew 4:8-11. Instruct each group to read its passage and prepare a short dramatization of its passage. Share the dramas sequentially.

## **Break It Down**

### **Ask:**

- Jesus was beginning His ministry. How long and how long Jesus been in the wilderness and why was He there? (*40 days; the Holy Spirit led Him there to be tempted*)
- Who was the tempter? What other names appear for him in verses 1-11? (*The devil, the tempter, Satan*)
- With what physical desire was Jesus tempted? (*To turn the stones into bread.*)
- What was Jesus' response to the tempter? (*He quoted scripture: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." Deuteronomy 8:3*)

Jesus knew that God's Word (the Bible) is important for spiritual strength, just as food gives our bodies strength. To go without food makes us weak and tired. What happens when we go without the nourishment of God's Word?

### **Ask:**

- How did the devil test Jesus a second time? (*He took him to the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem and said, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down."*)
- Does it surprise you that the devil quoted scripture? Why or why not?
- How did Jesus respond? (*He quoted Deuteronomy 6:16. "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."*)

The devil was tempting Jesus to prove God's love for Him. That is not God's plan. He gives us blessings that show His love when it is right and good for us. It is not for us to demand.

### **Ask:**

- Finally, the devil offered Jesus a deal. What was it? (*Bow down to the devil and he could rule the earth.*)

Remind the children that when Jesus comes again He will be the ruler of the whole world, but He needed to follow God's plan which includes dying on the cross. This temptation by the devil seemed to be a fast and easy track to glory.

### **Ask:**

- Why do you think Jesus' response made the devil leave?
- What did Jesus do three times to resist temptation? (*Used God's Word*)
- Using this Bible passage, who can answer our question of the day "How Do I Use the Bible?" (*Like Jesus, we can use the Bible to help us fight temptation.*)

## **UNCOVER**

**Materials:** index cards; writing utensils; page 13

## **Trouble Ahead**

Explain that like Jesus, people face challenges which may tempt them.

Encourage a volunteer to read aloud "Caution Ahead" on the bottom of the handout (page 13).

Give each student several index cards. Challenge students to think of temptations which result from these pressures and write them on the cards. (Example: using foul language to fit in.)

Collect the cards and select a few of the temptations to discuss.

**Ask:**

- Which temptations do students face most often?
- What other temptations do students encounter?
- What are some positive responses to these challenges?

**Where Do You Turn?**

Redistribute the temptation cards to students. They do not need to have their original cards.

Instruct each student to think about where she would turn for guidance if she faced this situation, and to write her answer on the back of the card. (Examples: friends, parents, sibling.)

Collect the cards. Lead a discussion about the results.

**Ask:**

- To whom do most students go for guidance? Why?
- To whom do they go to least? Why?
- Do you ever go to God or the Bible?

**DO:** Collect the index cards and put them in Week 8's file so you will have them next week. The kids will learn next week how to use a concordance to look up verses to help with these temptations.

**Make sure you collect the index cards and place them in WEEK 8 so you have them next week.**

**Word on the Street**

Challenge students to complete "Word on the Street" on page 13. (See additional handout)

Answers:

- I'm not doing well in school. *Colossians 3:23*
- I'm afraid. *Psalms 46:1-3*
- I'm sad. *Psalms 43:5*
- I don't like how I look. *Psalms 139:14*
- I want good friends. *Luke 6:31*

**Say:** Jesus used Bible verses that he had memorized to help Him not to sin when he was tempted.

**Ask:**

- Do you know any Bible verses that can help you when you face one of these temptations? *(If the students do not know any verses, encourage them by reminding them to work on the Bible verse list provided by Legacy.)*

## EMBARK

### ***So, How do you use the Bible?***

Have the students look back at the sticky notes that they placed inside their Bibles during the opening activity. They were to have listed two areas in their lives in which they need help or strength. (If they had trouble with this at the start of class, maybe they have some ideas now and can complete the activity.)

Dismiss students with these final thoughts:

- ✓ Everyone faces trouble and temptation.
- ✓ It is not a sin to be tempted.
- ✓ God's people can turn to the Bible for guidance in any situation.
- ✓ God wants you to turn to His Word when you face a challenge.

### ***Challenge of the Week:***

Use your Bible to help with this challenge. See if you can find a Bible verse to help you resist temptation or give you encouragement in an area you are struggling to overcome. Pray, thanking God for the Bible and asking Him to open students' hearts to the love and encouragement found in His Word.

## LEGACY KIDS MEMORY VERSE WORK

"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." *John 3:16-17*

## MISSIONS MOMENT

Please visit the Missions Map either in your classroom or at your campus. While there, please pray for the Lall Family in India. **Ajai and Indu Lall** are reaching the people of India with the Gospel through Central India Christian Mission.

Please pray that...

- God would strengthen and protect Christians who are begin persecuted in India.
- Central Indian Christian Mission would continue to follow God's lead in their leadership and ministry.
- the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be revealed to all of the people groups in India and beyond.
- the spiritual and physical needs of the Indian people would be met.
- God would continue to bless the Lalls and keep them safe.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." *Matthew 28:19*