

Open Bible Stories - Satan Tempts Jesus

Introduction

Key Idea

The story of Jesus being tempted by Satan teaches us that Jesus endured temptation without sin and can sympathize with our struggles and come to our aid when tempted.

Core Belief Verse

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

Hebrews 4:15

God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham. He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife and she bore twins, Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But, God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

God judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

God made a covenant with the Israelites and made them his people.

God tested Israel in a series of wilderness wanderings and eventually brought his people into the promised land of Canaan.

God raised up deliverers to lead Israel and rescue them from their enemies.

God formed Israel into a kingdom. He made a covenant with King David and promised to send a king that would rule his people forever.

Many of Israel's kings were evil and the kingdom of Israel divided into two kingdoms.

God sent prophets to warn his people of God's judgment and call them to repent.

When Israel did not repent, God sent his people into exile. After many years, he brought them back to the land.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his Messiah to deliver his people from their sin.

After many years, the prophet John was born. He would prepare people for the coming Messiah.

At the perfect time, God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin Mary.

When John and Jesus grew up, John baptized Jesus as a sign that Jesus was God's beloved Son.

Jesus endured all manner of temptation without ever sinning.

The Story: Satan Tempts Jesus

25-01



Immediately after Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit led him out into the wilderness. Jesus was there for 40 days and 40 nights. During that time he fasted, and Satan came to Jesus and tempted him to sin.

25-02



First, Satan said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, turn these rocks into bread so you can eat!"

25-03



But Jesus said to Satan, "It is written in God's word, 'People do not only need bread in order to live, but they need everything that God tells them!'"

25-04



Then Satan took Jesus to the highest point on the Temple. He said to him, "If you are the Son of God, jump off to the ground, because it is written, 'God will command his angels to carry you so your foot does not hit a stone.'"

25-05



But Jesus did not do what Satan asked him to do. Instead, he said, "God tells everyone, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'"

25-06



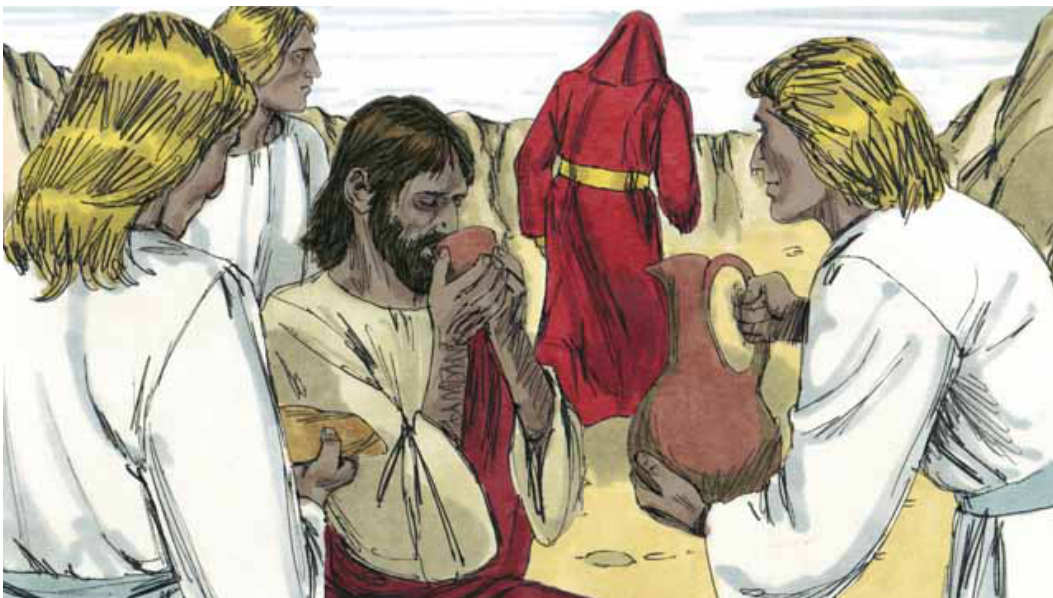
Then Satan showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. He showed him how powerful they were, and how wealthy they were. He said to Jesus, "I will give you all this if you bow down and worship me."

25-07



Jesus replied, "Get away from me, Satan! In God's word he commands his people, 'Worship only the Lord your God. Honor only him as God.'"

25-08



Jesus did not give in to Satan's temptations, so Satan left him. Then angels came and took care of Jesus.

A Bible story from: Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

Community Study: We Are Strong When Weak - Doing Ministry in God's Strength

- **Key Idea:** relying on God's power as a source of ministry strength
- **Key Passage:** 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
- **Main Session:** OBS 25 (Satan Tempts Jesus)

Recite the Core Belief Verse (3-5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage. Read the verse out loud as a community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

For we do not have a high priest who cannot feel sympathy for our weaknesses. Instead, we have someone who has in all ways been tempted as we are, except that he is without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

OR

For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 2:18

Sing a Song (3-5 minutes)

Choose a song to sing to praise God and encourage one another.

Read the Passage (3-5 minutes)

No Christian can lead or minister in their own strength and power. Christian leaders go about their work by God's strength. As a community, read the following Bible passage together to understand the godly approach to leadership, power, and authority.

1 I must boast, but nothing is gained by it. But I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago who - whether in the body or out of the body, I do not know, God knows - was caught up into the third heaven. 3 And I know that this man - whether in the body, or out of the body, I do not know, God knows - 4 was caught up into paradise and heard things too sacred for anyone to say. 5 On behalf of such

a person I will boast. But on behalf of myself I will not boast, except about my weaknesses. 6 If I should choose to boast, I will not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I will keep from boasting, so that no one will think more of me than what he sees in me or hears from me. 7 To keep me from boasting because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger from Satan to afflict me - so I would not become overly proud. 8 Three times I begged the Lord about this, for him to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So I would much rather boast about my weakness, so that the power of Christ might reside on me. 10 Therefore I am content for Christ's sake in weaknesses, in insults, in troubles, in persecutions and distressing situations. For whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Explore the Idea (10-15 minutes)

God wants all Christians to depend upon his grace and power. In particular, this is what God wants for leaders in his church. As a community, use the following questions to discuss the teaching of the biblical passage.

1. In this passage, how does Paul understand his weakness and limitations? What does Paul think about his weaknesses and limitations?
2. What does it mean for leaders and Christians to minister in weakness so that God can show his power through them?
3. What kinds of things do many leaders boast about?
4. How can you approach leadership and ministry in a way that relies on God's power and grace?

Name Personal Weakness (5 minutes)

After discussing this passage, have a time of personal reflection in which each member identifies an area of weakness in their life and ministry. Then, have each person think about how God's power can be shown through your weakness.

Pray to God (5 minutes)

Have each person identify the area of weakness and pray the following prayer to God.

Good God, I acknowledge that I am weak in this way...

Thank you that your grace is sufficient for me and your power is made perfect in weakness, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

Movement 1: Understand the Story

Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.

Observation Questions

25-01

Where did Jesus go after he was baptized?

Jesus went into the wilderness.

Who led Jesus into the wilderness?

The Holy Spirit led him.

What did Jesus do in the wilderness?

Jesus fasted there for 40 days and 40 nights.

Who came to tempt Jesus to sin?

Satan came to Jesus in the wilderness and tempted him to sin.

25-02

What did Satan tempt Jesus to prove about himself?

Satan tempted Jesus to prove that he was the Son of God.

What did Satan tempt Jesus to do with the rocks?

Satan told Jesus to turn the rocks into bread so he could eat.

25-03

What did Jesus quote to Satan?

Jesus quoted God's word to Satan.

What did God tell Satan from God's word?

Jesus told Satan that people do not only need bread to live, but they also need everything that God tells them.

25-04

Where did Satan and Jesus go next?

Satan took Jesus to the highest point of the Temple.

What did Satan tempt Jesus to prove about himself?

Satan tempted Jesus to prove that he was the Son of God.

What did Satan tempt Jesus to do next?

Satan told Jesus to throw himself down from the Temple.

Who did Satan say would protect Jesus?

God would command his angels to protect Jesus.

Where did Satan get this information?

Satan quoted from God's word.

25-05

Did Jesus do what Satan asked?

No. Jesus did not do what Satan asked him to do.

What did Jesus quote to Satan?

Jesus quoted God's word to Satan.

What did God tell Satan from God's word?

Jesus said that God's Word says not to test the Lord your God.

25-06

What did Satan show Jesus next?

Satan showed Jesus the power and wealth of all the kingdoms of the world.

What did Satan then offer to give Jesus?

Satan offered to give him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

What did Satan ask Jesus to do in order to receive these kingdoms?

Satan wanted Jesus to bow down and worship him.

25-07

Did Jesus agree to worship Satan?

No. Jesus commanded Satan to leave him.

What did Jesus quote to Satan?

Jesus quoted God's word to Satan.

What did God tell Satan from God's word?

Jesus told Satan that God commands his people to only worship and honor God.

25-08

Did Jesus give in to Satan's temptations?

No. Jesus did not fall for Satan's temptations.

What did Satan do?

Because Jesus did not fall for Satan's temptations, Satan left Jesus.

What happened after Satan left Jesus?

Angels came and took care of Jesus.

Movement 2: Theological Questions

What Does This Story Teach Us?

1. What are common ways humans are tempted to sin? How does the story of Jesus' temptation highlight common areas where God's people are tempted to sin?
2. How can God's people resist temptation? How does Jesus provide an example of resisting temptation?
3. What role do temptations and testing have in the Christian life? How does this story teach us about the role temptations have in the Christian life?

Movement 3: Live It Out

Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.

1. Which of Jesus' temptations would you have found most challenging? Why?
2. What temptations to sin are you facing in your life?
3. How has God grown you in your faith by resisting temptation to sin?
4. Think about this week. Where does "Satan Tempts Jesus" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now:
The story of Jesus being tempted by Satan teaches us that Jesus endured temptation without sin and can sympathize with our struggles and come to our aid when tempted.

Movement 4: Retell the Story

Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.

1. Can someone retell "Satan Tempts Jesus" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

Church Ministry

Ministry Preparation: Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. Record some ministry ideas below.

Ministry Implementation: Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

Ministry Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. Reflect on your experience below.

Movement 5: Share It

Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.

1. Who is one specific person you will share "Satan Tempts Jesus" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

Mission Engagement

Witness Preparation: Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. Record some ideas below.

Witness Implementation: Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

Witness Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to unbelievers. Reflect on your experience below.