

Luke 4:1-13

Prepare for Battle!

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Memory Verse: Luke 4:4 *“Jesus answered him (the devil) saying, ‘It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’”*”

Lesson Focus: We get front row seats to one of the Bible’s epic battles: Jesus vs. Satan in the wilderness. Jesus and the devil face-off in what turns out to be a lopsided victory for Jesus! This battle is very instructive for us as followers of Jesus as He counters every temptation with Scripture. God’s Word is His primary defense and weapon. We will challenge the kids to likewise “wield the sword of the Spirit” when they face temptation.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Jesus Saying No to Devil, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd grade: Folded Sword (of the Spirit)

Starter Activity: Rock, Paper, Scissors Team Game

Consider getting the lesson started by playing a team variation of “Rock, Paper, Scissors” with the kids. You will need no more than 6 volunteers to play. Or consider having a boys game and a girls game going simultaneously and then have the final boy and girl winner face-off! Have them all stand in a circle facing one another and have them all say “Rock, Paper, Scissors...Shoot” simultaneously selecting one of the three with their hands. *

In this variation, what you are looking for is a result where only two of the three options are shown between all of the kids. If all three or only one are chosen, then it is a standoff. You will probably get a few standoffs at first and repeat until you get only two of the three shown between all the kids playing. Once that happens then you have winners and losers. For example, if some children show scissors, and the rest show paper, all of the kids showing paper lose and will sit down. Continue until you have a winner!

To help connect this game with the lesson, use our lesson title phrase “**Prepare For Battle**” while playing. Ham it up a little bit to make it fun. * After you have the winner, transition into the lesson by talking about some biblical epic battles.

Q: Can you think of any epic battles in the Bible?

A: David vs. Goliath, Pharoah vs. Moses, Elijah vs. false prophets *

As we continue to study the gospel of Luke, Jesus now takes center-stage. His earthly ministry is about to begin, but before it does, He must prevail in an epic battle of His own. Let’s check it out!

Bible Study:

Luke 4:1: The past couple weeks we have looked at John the Baptist and how he prepared the way for Jesus. When John baptized Jesus (**Luke 3:22**), God the Father spoke from heaven and God the Spirit came down upon God the Son introducing Him as the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. (**John 1:29**) *

Q: Where did Jesus go next? A: Into the wilderness! Away from the crowds and into the “battle arena”. But notice He was not only filled by the Holy Spirit, but He was also led by the Spirit. It seems this battle was designed to be a testing ground for Him. *

Luke 4:2: He went into the wilderness for 40 days into an epic battle with who? The devil! It also says that He was hungry and would face **temptations** from the devil.

Q: What does it mean to be “tempted”? A: It means you have an urge or desire to do something, often something wrong or bad! * This is something we all know very well!

Q: But is temptation or being tempted itself a sin? A: NO! But if we don’t resist * it, it will lead us into sin! * Sometimes it might be hard to tell the difference between sin and temptation. So here are a few examples to help us better understand. (**Teachers:** Consider reading out these example pairs below and have the kids stand up if it is a sin and sit down if it is just a temptation. Ask them what is the difference between the two)

- 1) I only get one cookie, but I REALLY WANT an extra cookie (TEMPTATION)
- 2) I only get one cookie, but I am taking two (SIN)
- 3) I am mad at my brother and want to hit him back (TEMPTATION)
- 4) I hate my brother and will hit him back (SIN)

You see the difference? Jesus will be faced with many temptations, but He will prove Himself to be our perfect Savior by resisting every one of them! *

Luke 4:3: So here is Round 1 * of this epic battle. (**Teachers:** Consider keeping score on the white board as you go through this passage by putting Jesus and the devil up there and giving Jesus a point each time He resists the devil’s temptations)

The devil “comes out swinging” at Jesus where He is really weak/vulnerable, tempting Him to go against God and use His divine power to feed Himself.

Q: Have you ever been really, really, really hungry? Imagine feeling that way for 40 days. The Holy Spirit somehow miraculously sustained Jesus during these 40 days, but no doubt He was weak and vulnerable due to His hunger. * Sure, Jesus could have used His divine power to feed Himself, but the Father’s plan involved no such shortcuts.

Luke 4:4: Jesus responds with a powerful counter-punch! *

Q: What did Jesus use to counter the devil’s temptations? A: The Word of God! He quoted from **Deuteronomy 8:3**. Jesus countered the devil’s trickery with TRUTH. The score after Round 1? Jesus 1: Satan 0.

Luke 4:5: Now we enter Round 2 of this epic battle. The devil has regrouped and will try a different strategy by presenting Jesus with a tempting offer.

Luke 4:6-7: The devil sorta says to Jesus, “Let’s make a deal”.

Q: What is the devil offering Jesus? A: Power/authority on earth. * While it is true that the devil wields power on this earth, God is still the one in control. (Satan is on a leash!)

Q: What does the devil want in return? A: Jesus to bow down to him in worship. * As Jesus would say later on, to accept such a deal He would “*gain the whole world, but would forfeit his own soul*” (**Luke 9:25**)

Luke 4:8: Once again, Jesus dodges the devil’s attack and returns with another potent strike! POW!

Q: What did Jesus use to respond to the devil this time? A: Again, the Word of God! * Jesus quoted from **Deuteronomy 6:13** which declares God is the “onlyest” One we are to worship. * The score after Round 2? Jesus 2: Satan 0!

Luke 4:9: Now we enter the third and final round of this epic battle. Twice now the devil has presented Jesus with attractive temptations, but has failed to get Jesus to give in and sin. But the devil still has another trick up his sleeve:

Luke 4:10-11: The devil himself quotes the Bible at Jesus! The devil is challenging Jesus to test God rather than trust God. *

Q: What do you think Jesus is going to do? More Bible?

Luke 4:12: Absolutely! He answers the devil’s twisting of the Word of God with a very clear command from the Word of God. The devil was misquoting the Bible to get Jesus to do something the Bible very clearly forbids: testing God rather than trusting Him. Jesus quoted from **Deuteronomy 6:16**.

Luke 4:13: POW! The devil is knocked out and so this epic battle concludes.

Final score: Jesus 3: Satan 0! * The devil departs, but he will be back later. As for Jesus, He overcame every temptation thrown at Him. *

Jesus has passed this test and will go on to live a perfect life free from sin. This perfect life was part of His mission so that He could be the perfect substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. * But this battle is also instructive for us, because we also face temptation.

Key Point: Q: How did Jesus fight against temptation? A: The Word of God! Ephesians 6 teaches us to put on the full armor of God to fight against the temptations the devil throws our way. What do you think the one weapon listed is? **Ephesians 6:17** says we are to take the “sword of the Spirit” which is the word of God. *

Boys and Girls: PREPARE FOR BATTLE! * Nothing will help you fight temptation better than hearing the Word, reading it, and memorizing it. Jesus knew the Word and its proper application. You can too! Know this book! When temptation comes your way, just like Jesus, respond with the Word and you will knockout the devil just like Jesus did! *

BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 4:4
How can you better
"live by every word of
God" this week?

Parent Signature:

Parent Challenge:
What is the "sword of
the Spirit"?

What are some Bible
verses that might help
you resist temptation?

