**Temptation of Jesus**

**A Bible Story From**

**Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13**

**and Luke 4:1-13**

**Bible Story Number: 2010070**

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**Temptation of Jesus**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

This story tells about the temptation of Jesus. This event is recorded in three different places in the Bible. Matthew, Mark and Luke all include this event in their accounts of the life of Jesus. Mark only mentions it briefly. Matthew and Luke include the same basic information, but the temptations are in a different order. The story here will follow Matthew’s account.

There are some important things to remember as we listen to this story from the Bible. First, Jesus is God and he chose to limit himself to become a man. Another is that the Greek word translated “tempted” can also mean “tested.”

**Story from the Bible**

**Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12-13 and Luke 4:1-13**

This is what the Bible says.

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He did not eat for forty days and nights, and he was hungry and in need of food. The devil (Satan) came to Jesus and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

Jesus answered by quoting Scripture. He said, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’” (Deut. 8:3).

The devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest part of the temple. The devil said, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. The Bible says, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone’” (Psalm 91:11-12).

Jesus answered him by quoting the Bible, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test’” (Deut. 6:16).

Again, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you, if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For the Bible says: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only’” (Deut. 6:13).

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* What were the three temptations that Satan presented to Jesus?
* What did Jesus use as a response to each temptation?
* What does this event teach us about how we can or should respond to temptation?
* Why do you think Satan quoted the Bible to Jesus?
* Why do you think God allowed Satan to tempt Jesus?
* Why is it important to note that Satan left?
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.