

Aim of lesson

To consider how Jesus overcame temptation and how we can.

Bible background

Matthew 4:1 -11

Outline of lesson

Temptations

Read together Matthew 4:1-11 and answer the questions in the table on the first page in the workbook. Encourage the class to consider why Jesus might have wanted to do these things;

- because he was hungry?
- to feed the people?
- so that the people would accept him?
- so he could rule now and not have to be crucified?

Encourage them also to see what mattered most to Jesus; what God said, trusting and not testing God, worshipping God. In other words, what God thought was right mattered to him more than what he wanted, because he loved his Father.

The Race of Life

Play the board game in the workbook in twos or threes. The instructions are given below. The class will need to refer to these during the game.

Each player starts with one sandwich, one drink, a Bible, and a pound coin and when it is their turn, they move their counter forward one square and follow any instructions for that square. Dice are not needed. The game is designed so that taking the right decision will usually mean time is lost and you lag behind. It does take time to pray or to stop and help others etc. The end of the game, however, has a twist. Use the situations in the game as opportunities to discuss facing temptation.

The moves are determined by their choice of answer.

Square	Instruction	Do you?
1	You are setting out on the race of life.	Stop to pray first – (b) Run off as quickly as you can – (c)
3	You see a sword on the path.	Take it with you (c) Leave it (b)
5	You meet a beggar who asks you for money.	Hurry on (c) Stop to give him your pound coin (b) Tell him you have no money (d)
7	You meet Brian the school bully with his gang. He kicks you in the shins	Kill him with the sword (d) Hit him over the head with your Bible (c) Walk away (b) Shout at him and call him a bully (c)
9	You meet Vicky who has her younger brother with her. The boy is crying with hunger and they still have a long way to go home.	Give the boy your sandwich (b) Rush past (c) Tell the boy to cheer up (d)
11	You overhear Eric telling your friends that you are a 'soppy Christian'.	Butt in and call him a liar (d) Tell your friends afterwards what a nasty little gossip he is (c) Ignore it (b)
13	Your Mum asks you to do the washing up.	Go and do it (b) Say you will do it after you have won this game (c) Tell her she is always picking on you and go out slamming the door (d)
17	You meet Amy from school who is doing a five mile run. She asks you for a drink.	Tell her you have only one drink so she will have to get her own (c) Give her your drink (b)
19	It's hard work going uphill and friends say you're nuts carrying a heavy Bible around.	Drop it (c) Take it with you (b)
21	You remember that Martin is still mad at you for having forgotten to return a record you borrowed.	Take it back now and apologise (a) Leave it till you next see him (b) Tell yourself that he is just as bad and wait till it suits you (c)
23	You meet an old lady going the opposite way. She is carrying a heavy bag.	Offer to carry her bag (a) Smile and hurry on (b) Tell her how exhausted you are (c)

Square	Instruction	Do you?
27	You meet Brian again. He is on his own and has a leg in plaster. He says he is sorry for having been rotten to you.	Kick his good leg and ask how he likes it (d) Say you always knew he was a coward at heart (c) Tell him it's O.K., he can forget it (b) Walk past in silence (c)
29	Matthew 26:52 to see if you have been eliminated. If you have no Bible you are also eliminated.	
31	Read Matthew 20:16 to see if you have won.	

Key to Moves

- a – Miss a turn
- b – Stay where you are
- c – Go on one square
- d – Have an extra turn

Digging deeper

Matthew and his gospel

This section is an investigation into Matthew, the Gospel and the writer. We don't know why he was also called Levi – Matthew could have been a name that Jesus gave him.

Relevance to our lives

Ask the class to choose something that happens to them during the week that is a temptation to them. Use a few minutes of next week's lesson to discuss the situation. It is helpful to include yourself.

Prayer

Our Father, lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil.

Other suggestions for activities

- An older class may like to consider how Jesus faced similar temptations during the rest of his ministry.
- If the subject is a difficult one for your class, they may like to do the extra lesson on the Devil and Satan.