

WEEK 1 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

PAGE-TURNER

THE BIG IDEA

God prepares us to fight temptation.

THE BIBLE

Jesus Resists Temptation: Luke 4:1-13;
Psalm 91:9-16

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "When the Fight Calls" (Hillsong Young and Free)
 - "One in a Million" (Elevation Kidz)
 - "You Awaken Me" (Central Live)
 - "I Belong" (Shout Praises Kids)

ACTIVITY | The Perfect Sidekick

- It's our first week of Page-Turner! During the next few weeks, we will be traveling together to different worlds in our imaginations. It will be like jumping right into the pages of fantastic adventure books! The greatest book world we'll explore, of course, is the Bible!
- So, let's close our eyes for a minute. Imagine you are the main character in a storybook. You are headed into the deep, dark forest to face the greatest challenge or battle of your whole entire life! But don't be afraid! You don't fight alone. You have a sidekick!
- **Do you know what a sidekick is?** A sidekick is a person who helps another person. A sidekick rarely leaves that person's side!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather drawing supplies. Be ready to help the kids who might need more examples before they get started.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Ask kids to come up with famous (or their favorite) sidekicks from popular book series. Alternatively, you can put funny images on your screen of people, animals, or even objects that could be a “sidekick.” Let preteens supply what powers each sidekick would have and who would need such a sidekick.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Provide illustrations of famous sidekicks from popular book series for tweens. Just something fun to get them to realize what or who a sidekick is.*
- What would your perfect sidekick look like? An owl with wings of bronze and eyes that can see for hundreds of miles? A fiercely loyal leopard that you can saddle and ride? A tiny but mighty silver beetle who whispers in your ear?
- We’re going to draw and name our perfect sidekicks and make a list of their special powers. Then, we’ll have something to keep to remind us that we don’t fight alone!

ACTIVITY | Noodle Armor

- These two volunteer warriors are being sent into another realm to battle the galactic foe, Varthanon! But the only armor we have to dress your warriors in is . . . pool noodles! Teams, you’re going to use these materials to suit up your warrior with the best armor you can make with just these materials!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide the kids into two equal teams and choose a volunteer “warrior” from each team. Each team will use pool noodles and masking tape (or strips of ribbon) to wrap their warrior in the best armor they can. At the end, the leader will judge the armor based on creativity and durability.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *This activity may overwhelm some kids, provide an area with dolls that they can wrap in strips of cloth to make “armor.”*
- Great job with the armor-making! As creative as this was, they’re probably not going to be really effective in a real battle, right?
- Or what if the battle isn’t physical but it’s something that we are fighting in our minds and hearts? Armor would be of no help there.
- But today we’re going to find out what — or who — is going to be our greatest strength when we’re in tough situations!

QUESTION | What is temptation?

- **Do you know what the word “temptation” means?** The dictionary tells us that temptation is the desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise.
- **Have you ever felt tempted to do something you know you shouldn’t do?**
- **How many of us have felt like we couldn’t say “no” to that temptation?**
- **Is anyone willing to share a way you have felt tempted?**

SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

BIBLE STORY | Jesus Resists Temptation

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask a volunteer to read parts of the Bible passage in Luke 4:1-13 when prompted as you tell today's story. For dramatic effect, turn out the lights each time the Bible passage is read.
- [Read Luke 4:1-2.]
- So, this story begins with our hero, Jesus. Jesus is heading out into the wilderness to face the biggest villain of all time – the devil.
 - You would think Jesus would want to power up on the most energizing fruits and figs the trees could offer, right? Or maybe gather an army of woodland creatures for backup.
 - But Jesus doesn't do any of that. In fact, Jesus fasts. That means Jesus doesn't eat any food at all. And Jesus fasts for forty days! **Can you imagine how weak you would feel with no pizza, hamburgers, spaghetti, or anything in your stomach for forty days?**
 - You might think Jesus was making a mistake. That Jesus wasn't prepared to face the villain. But you would be wrong! Everything Jesus needed, Jesus had already. Let's see what happens.
- [Read Luke 4:3-4.] The first thing the devil does is try to tempt Jesus by telling Jesus to turn stones into bread.
 - This was a trick that Jesus could totally do, right? Besides, Jesus had to be super hungry at this point.
 - But instead, Jesus said, "People shall not live on bread alone." Jesus was quoting a Bible verse. He was saying that it's more important to obey God than to satisfy our hunger! Whoa!
- [Read Luke 4:5-8.] Then, the devil said to Jesus, "If you bow down and worship me, I will make you king of the world!"
 - Again, Jesus shut the devil down with scripture and said, "It is written: 'Worship and serve God only.'"
- [Read Luke 4:9-12.] The devil tried again one last time. The devil tried to use Jesus' own weapon against Jesus. The devil began to quote verses in the Bible, trying to convince Jesus to jump off the edge of something really, really high and force God to protect Jesus from falling. Yikes!
 - But Jesus wasn't fooled and Jesus fired back with the finishing blow, straight out of Scripture by saying, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
 - This must have been hard, right? The devil was tempting Jesus with so much.
 - **How do you think Jesus stayed so strong and didn't give in?**
- Now, let's find out what happened after Jesus beat the devil's temptations.
- [Read Luke 4:13.] Jesus beat the devil! So, the devil left Jesus alone.

BIG IDEA | God prepares us to fight temptation.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Make a giant book with each week's Big Idea printed or written on its own page. Present the book on a large easel or have a volunteer hold it. When revealing this week's Big Idea, flip to the first page where it will be written.*
- Can you imagine all the things God could have given Jesus to face the devil? Maybe . . . a jetpack and a ray gun? A potion that would make Jesus immune to the devil's lies? **Who can think of some more ideas?**
- Guess what? God didn't do any of that and God doesn't do that for us either. . . which is kind of a bummer because a jetpack and a ray gun would be super cool, huh?
- But instead, God gives us something much better, even though it's harder to see. How did Jesus fight off the enemy? By using the words of God found in the Bible! That's right, the Bible is the weapon that will train us to fight when we're tempted.
- Let's go over to our big storybook and turn the page to reveal our Big Idea for the day. Read it with me: **God prepares us to fight temptation.**

VIDEO | Page-Turner, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).*

STORY | The Only Key

- It's time to jump into another storybook! Let's all close our eyes and turn on our imaginations.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tell everyone to have a seat on the floor or at the tables. You might choose to play some epic [background music](#) as you tell the story.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Pick a short children's book that kids might know already and talk about what the main character in the story needs and where they could find it.*
- Imagine a young hero on the run. She just captured back the golden scepter of freedom from the grips of the mean Dr. Duldrum. Dr. Duldrum's evil henchmen are right on our hero's heels.
- She follows an exit sign down a hallway and now all that stands between her and escape is a single door . . . but it's locked! If only she had something she could use to open the door!
 - **What are some things she could use?**
- Oh, wait! She remembered something! When her mother kissed her goodbye that morning, she stuck something in the hero's back pocket. Our hero was in a rush and didn't bother to check what it was. Maybe a couple of dollars for a snack?
 - **What could it be?**
- She reached into her pocket and slowly pulled out. . . a key! And wouldn't you know, the key fit the lock and she was free! She was prepared all along!
- **Have you ever been looking and looking for something, but then realized that you had what you needed all along?**
- **Maybe your missing homework that was at the bottom of your backpack?**
- **Or your sunglasses that were on top of your head? What did that feel like?**
- When we are faced with temptation, sometimes we might look everywhere else for a solution but the answer is always with us. We can turn to God by depending on what we know is true in the Bible. That is how **God prepares us to fight temptation.**

OBJECT LESSON | Bible Barricade

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a stack of Bibles and a roll of tape or string. Use the Bibles to illustrate the silly examples below.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Many preteens have their own cell phones and devices. This would be a great time to show them all of the amazing Bible apps and/or websites that are right at their fingertips. Check out [Streetlights Bible](#) app or the [Preteen Experience](#) on Youversion.
- **What was the weapon Jesus used when he was tempted to turn stones into bread?** Yes! Jesus quoted something from the Bible.
- **What weapon did Jesus use the second time when Jesus was tempted with great power?** That's right! The Bible! Scripture!
- Okay, this is a tough one. **What weapon did Jesus use the third time?** Oh you got it! The Bible. At this time, even the devil tried to use Scripture but Jesus knew it and understood it better, so he won!
- **But how do we do what Jesus did?**
 - Do I hold the Bible up in front of my face like this?
 - Maybe I need to make a fort out of Bibles.
 - Or . . . I could put a couple of Bibles on my legs like shin guards. Would that work?
- No way! It's not about the book, it's about what's in the book.
- So what do we do? We read the Bible! And we learn it and know it! Jesus defeated the devil and was able to resist temptation using the Bible as a guide.

BIBLE | Psalm 91:9-16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read through each section of the passage and discuss with kids.
- [Read Psalm 91:9-13 aloud.]
 - So this is the part of the Bible the devil tried to use against Jesus.
 - That's some pretty powerful protection that God's promising us here! It seems like if Jesus had jumped like the devil wanted him to, God would have sent angels to catch him.
 - **Why do you think Jesus didn't fall – literally – for it?**
 - **Are you more afraid of lions or cobras? Which would you be more afraid to walk among?**
- [Read Psalm 91:14 aloud.]
 - **What is the only thing we need to do to receive God's protection?**
- [Read Psalm 91:15-16 aloud.]
 - **What will God do when we call on God?**
- It's pretty easy to hear this scripture and see, imagine, and even feel the ways that God prepares us to face anything.
- But here's the thing, though: We have a part to play in this, too, don't we? It goes both ways, doesn't it? Let's listen one more time and look for the parts that we play in God's big story. [Read the text in full.]
- This psalm tells us that we need to love and trust in God. The best way we can show this is to put our love and trust in God's words. When we do, we can be sure God will be with us and we'll know without a doubt that **God prepares us to fight temptation.**

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

POLL | Have you ever?

- Okay, we're all going to raise our hands if the answer to any of these questions is yes.
- **Have you ever pretended to be a superhero?**
- **Have you ever swallowed a bug on purpose? How about by accident?**
- **Have you ever cut your own hair?**
- **Okay, here's an interesting one: Have you ever answered someone's question using a Bible verse?** *[Tell the kids about a time when you did this or share a time when that a response like that would be necessary.]*
- It might seem like a strange idea, like when Jesus did it to silence the devil. But we can use the Bible and what it says to fight off any temptation that might come our way.

RESPONSE | Written on the Scroll

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Gather paper, drawing supplies, tea bags, and a scrap of fabric to create an "ancient scroll." Instruct the kids to write a verse from Psalm 91:9-16 on a piece of paper. Then, show them how to gently "age" the paper using the same steps from this [tutorial](#).*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Instead of having kids choose a verse from Psalm 91, print or write out this month's memory verse for them to use for this activity. Make sure to walk through each step of the process of "aging" the paper together rather than giving them the instructions all at once.*
- In some great adventure stories, there are ancient scrolls that contain hidden truths that change the course of the journey. And guess what? You are on your own great adventure!
- We're going to use these supplies to create ancient scrolls of our own!
- First, we'll write our favorite word, phrase, or verse from Psalm 91:9-16.
 - Then, we're going to very gently and slowly tear the edges of our papers to make them look old.
 - Next, we're going to dab our paper all over with these damp tea bags to make our paper look even older.
 - Last, we'll scrunch it all up and then flatten it out again! We'll hang it to dry and before we leave, you can grab it, roll it up, and tie it with a piece of cloth.
- This is your ancient scroll that you can put in a secret place. When something in life is very, very tempting and you need help saying no, get the scroll out and read it to remember that the Bible can guide you. You don't have to give in to temptation. God has prepared you to resist it!

MEMORY VERSE | Onward!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids pretend they are riding horseback and have them trot around the room as they shout out the memory verse from II Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV) as a battle cry!*
- Let's close our eyes one more time and imagine that you're a mighty general leading a squad out to fight enemy forces.

- The words of our memory verse are the last words you'll say before leading your people into battle, so say them with passion!
- **"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."**
- Every time you practice the memory verse, let it be your battle cry!

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for preparing us to face any temptation that might come our way. We are so grateful because we don't have to be afraid. Help us to remember that we are strong and powerful with your help and the words you have given us in the Bible. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Where did the devil tempt Jesus?**
- **Can you name one of the ways Jesus was tempted?**
- **How did Jesus respond to each of the temptations?**
- **Read Psalm 91:14. What do we need to do to receive God's protection?**
- **What are some things that tempt you that you find hard to fight off on your own?**
- **How can we respond to temptation like Jesus did?**
- **How should we feel when facing temptation? Helpless or confident? Why?**

ACTIVITY | Big Idea Bookmark

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cut construction paper or cardstock into rectangles to make bookmarks. Pass out markers, glitter glue, and any other drawing utensils for the kids to decorate with.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Make this bookmark with a series-themed twist! Using pages of old books, help preteens make and laminate a bookmark [like this](#). Check out tutorials [like this](#) for more details on how to make them.*
- We're going to write today's Big Idea on this paper to make a bookmark! I want you to decorate it with all the magical ideas you had during our time together today. That way, when you dive into your next book adventure, you'll remember this journey we took together.

MEMORY VERSE | II Thessalonians 3:3 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/IIThessalonians3-3.*
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."**