

Jesus Said "No!" for Us

FOR THE TEACHER:

This lesson focuses on Jesus in the wilderness, fasting and being tempted by the devil. The significance of this event is that the Son of God is saying "no" to the devil and "yes" to the Father from within our human nature. In the same way that Jesus' death killed our sinful nature and his resurrection raised our nature up to new life so also his "no" to the devil is the reversal of Adam's "yes" to the devil. We are incapable of always resisting temptation and saying "no" to the devil so Jesus puts humanity back on the track to adoption by saying "no!" for us.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

FIRST ACTIVITY: To help the kids think about what Jesus went through in the wilderness have them each scatter to different parts of the room, away from each other. Then hold a contest to see who can sit completely quiet and still by himself for the longest. Give a prize to the winner and then talk about what they experienced. How hard is it to be alone and not talk to anyone? How hard is it to resist the temptation to giggle or talk? How would you feel if you were alone for 40 days?

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Hebrews 4:1-13. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

1Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, 2where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

3The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

4Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"

5The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. 7So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

8Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

9The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. 10For it is written:

*" 'He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you carefully;*

11they will lift you up in their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"

12Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

13When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

How many days did Jesus spend in the wilderness being tempted by the devil? 40

How many days is the season of Lent? 40

What is the season of Lent? A time for us to prepare for the celebration of Easter and change our mind about wrong things we may have believed about the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Who is stronger, Jesus or the Devil? Jesus

**When did sin enter the world?* When Adam and Eve didn't trust our Father and ate the forbidden fruit.

So, Adam and Even didn't say "no" to temptation.

When you are tempted to do something wrong do you always say "no"? No, you don't

Everything Jesus did he did for us, so that we could be adopted as children of the Father. When he said "no" to the devil he reversed our "yes" and made human beings capable of telling the devil "no".

PRIMARY LESSON: When Jesus said "no" to the devil he reversed our "yes" and made human beings capable of telling the devil "no".

SECOND ACTIVITY: Have the kids scatter to different parts of the room again as they did at the start of the class - with the same goal, to see who can be quiet and still the longest. This time, however, have one kid act out the part of Jesus: he or she picks one kid to sit or stand beside. If that kid wins (by not giggling or talking first) ask "was it easier to do with someone standing next to you?" If that kid giggles or talks, the kid playing Jesus stands still and quiet - point out to the kids how the "Jesus" person has done for the other kid what he/she could not do for himself or herself. If the kid playing Jesus also giggles or talks point out to the kids how only the real Jesus can resist the temptations we can't resist. This can be repeated several times with a different kid playing Jesus each time and/or going to stand next to a different kid each time.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, we sometimes have trouble saying "no" to temptation so we thank you for sending Jesus to adopt us as your children and say "no" to the devil for us. Jesus, thank you for being alone and hungry and fighting the devil for us. Holy Spirit, help us to believe that our Father loves us and that Jesus defeated the devil for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.