

Lesson C3.1 - We Belong to God



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Matthew 4:1-11

- Bible Characters: Jesus, the Devil, God's Angels

The Spirit led Jesus out into the wilderness.

After fasting for 40 days and nights, he was tired and hungry. This was when the devil appeared, tempting him with food, glory and power. Jesus resisted, and quoted Scripture back to the devil. At last, the devil fled, and angels ministered to Jesus.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Beginnings

In Matthew 3, Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, and God called Jesus his beloved Son. In the very next chapter, we learn that Jesus was led out into the wilderness, where he was tempted. Jesus remained faithful to God during that hard test, and afterwards, he began public ministry.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

The words to this song are sung to the tune, "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes."

Optional motions: Lift hands up on "Lord," point to ears on "hear," fold hands on "pray." Stretch hands outwards on "all who need your help today."

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

Bless all who need your help today!

Lord, hear us as we pray, as we pray!

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Sometimes, we feel worried. Maybe it's because we heard a scary story, or even just had a scary thought. When these things happen, we can remind ourselves of something both comforting and true: **We belong to God!** Say that with me: **We belong to God!**

- What do you do when you're scared?
- Why does it help to know that **we belong to God?** (*God loves us and takes care of us. He protects us.*)

In today's story, we will learn about a time when Jesus faced something hard. What helped him? He knew that he too, belonged to God, and he did not give in to fear. What happened? Let's begin our story and find out!

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove, and God said, "This is my beloved Son. With him I am well pleased." But not long afterwards, Jesus faced a test.

Read the caption: The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. While there, Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days. He got quite tired and hungry.

- *What do you notice about this picture? [Jesus is alone, praying, far from town.]*
- *Have you ever been really tired and hungry, like Jesus was? When? [Call on volunteers.]*



Picture 2

Tell the children: Jesus was far from town and far away from his friends and family. But he was not really alone. The Holy Spirit was with him, even there in the wilderness, helping and protecting him.

Read the caption: Then, the devil showed up. He tempted Jesus with food. "Turn these stones to bread," he said. But Jesus would not do it.

- *Why do you think the devil told Jesus to turn the stones into bread? [He knew Jesus was hungry, and was trying to use that to get Jesus to do what he wanted.]*
- *Why do you think Jesus wouldn't do it? [Call on volunteers.]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: Even though Jesus said, "No," the devil did not give up. He told many lies, tempting Jesus to do risky things or even to fall down and worship him!

Read the caption: The devil kept trying to get Jesus to do the wrong thing. Still, Jesus would not listen. Instead, he quoted God's Word to the devil.

- *Look at Jesus' face in this picture. What do you notice? [He looks mad. He is not going to do what the devil says. He is telling the devil to leave.]*
- *How might it have helped Jesus to know God's Word? [The Holy Spirit could remind him of it when he needed it most. Jesus could tell when the devil was twisting God's Word.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: "Be gone, Satan!" Jesus said. "For God's Word says, 'You shall worship the Lord, and serve only him.'"

Read the caption: Finally, the devil gave up and left. Jesus had not fallen for his tricks! Afterwards, God's angels came and cared for Jesus.

- *Who are the two new people in the picture? [God's angels] What are they doing? [Giving Jesus bread and something to drink, as well as encouraging him.]*
- *How do you think Jesus is feeling in this picture? [Relieved, happy, calm again. He had resisted the devil and passed the test.]*

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*While in the desert, Jesus prayed;
he ate no food for 40 days.
That's when the devil came and tried
to tempt the Lord with pleasant lies.*

*The devil promised lots of things,
like food and safety, wealth of kings —
but Jesus would not go along
with all the things he knew were wrong.*

*"Be gone!" yelled Jesus. "Let me be.
Your tempting will not work with me!"
The devil could not beat the Lord
for Jesus stood upon God's Word.*

g. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the "craft" for the day.)

Game: Run from the Tempter**Materials Needed:**

Large open area to play a game

Instructions:

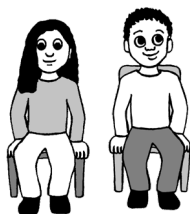
Invite all the children to sit in a circle (either in chairs or on the floor).

Choose one volunteer to be "The Tempter." This person's job is to disrupt and "tempt" people to do something.

To play, the Tempter will call out, "Everyone with (the Tempter will name an article of clothing, or hair color, or eye color, etc.), get up and follow me!"

Anyone who had something named (for example, "brown hair") must stand up, but rather than going towards the Tempter, they will scramble away to "safety" by sitting in someone else's seat. The Tempter will also be trying to take any open seat, so this will be a challenge.

If the Tempter succeeds in getting a seat, the person left standing will be the Tempter for the next round. Otherwise, the Tempter will have to stay in the same role and call out something else for round two. Play this for as many rounds as you and your class would like.

**h. Song (optional)**

The tune to this traditional and comforting hymn can be found on YouTube and other websites. If kids are unfamiliar with it, let them listen to it once or twice before teaching it to them.

God Will Take Care of You

Be not dismayed whate'er betide; (*Shake head "No"*)
God will take care of you. (*Cross arms over heart*)
Beneath His wings of love abide; (*Lift hands up*)
God will take care of you. (*Cross arms over heart*)

Refrain:

God will take care of you, (*Cross arms over heart*)
through ev'ry day, o'er all the way. (*Hands outstretched*)
He will take care of you; (*Point up to heaven*)
God will take care of you. (*Cross arms over heart*)

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit led him out to the wilderness. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Heavenly Father, God above,

We're grateful for your faithful love.

Bless everyone who need your care,

Help hurting people everywhere.

Be with us now, in all we do,

So we may serve and live for you. Amen.