



JANUARY THEME

**ILLUMINATE
YOUR BRAIN**

BIBLE STORY

Luke 4:1-13 + Matthew 4:1-11

Talk to the Hand | Jesus Tempted in
the Wilderness

Spark Story Bible | Tempted
(p. 248-251)

BOTTOM LINE

Discovering what God says helps you
make the wise choice

MEMORY VERSE

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a
light on my path.”

Psalms 119:105, NIV

LIFE APP

Knowledge | learning something new
so you can be better at whatever you
do

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **KNOWLEDGE** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story

This WEEK: Next, we head to **Luke 4:1-13**. After Jesus is baptized, God leads him to the wilderness where Satan tempts him. Satan twisted what Jesus knew about God and God’s Word. But Jesus knew Scripture backwards and forwards. Jesus leveraged what he knew from Scripture to use God’s truth to fight and win over evil.

Bottom Line: **Discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice.** When we read God’s word, we discover the truth about what God wants for our lives. And when we know that, it makes it easier for us to make the wise choice. We want kids to know God’s word and be able to use it to resist the temptation to do something wrong.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray for your few as the “rubber meets the road” and they put what they know about God into practice. Ask God to give them strength and courage to do the right thing when the pressure is on and that their actions would speak truth into their friends’ lives.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids about a time when they were tempted to eat something they weren’t supposed to.
 - Did they end up eating it?
 - How did they feel afterward?
 - Ask kids how they deal with temptation when they want to do something but know they shouldn’t.
 - Do any of them feel like they’re good at following the rules like waiting until after lunch or dinner to eat a snack/candy, or not doing something they’ve been told not to do?

•• WHERE IS IT?

What You Need: 3 opaque plastic cups, small object (*LEGO, eraser, rock, etc.*), smooth surface

What You Do:



- Choose one kid to go first.
- Help him hide the object under a cup with the other kids watching.
- Then instruct him to mix up the cups by sliding them around.
- After he feels like the cups are all mixed up, have the other kids raise their hands if they want to guess which cup the object is under.
- When a group member guesses a cup, have the kid that mixed up the cups lift that cup.
- Whoever guesses the correct cup gets to be the next person to mix up the cups.

What You Say: “That game was pretty tricky! Even though you were watching the cups closely, you still had to decide which cup the object was under with almost no information. **[Transition] Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship, we are going to hear/we heard about someone who made a choice with all the best information in the world.”**

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Large Group Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• **WAIT FOR IT** *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: Bag of treats *(keep contents hidden from your group)*

What You Do:

- Instruct your group to not speak until you say they can.
- Explain that if they wait until you give the “ok”, they will get a treat. But if they speak before you give the “ok”, they don’t get a treat.
- Sit quietly for three minutes.
- During the three minutes, don’t try to “entertain” kids or take their minds off of the wait. Let them get creative with filling the time and/or feel how long the wait is.
- If any kids didn’t talk at the end of three minutes, give them a treat from the treat bag.
- If anyone did talk, explain again that they do not get the treat.

What You Say: “Three minutes seemed like a really long time, didn’t it? Imagine how long 40 DAYS must have seemed to Jesus! That’s some major self-control! Why do you think Jesus said no to the devil even after he had been waiting that long to eat something? *(Pause for responses.)* You guys didn’t know what the treat was going to be, so it was hard for you to wait even three minutes. But Jesus knew all about how much better heaven was than all that the devil was offering him. He knew that the devil couldn’t offer him anything better. We can learn to have self-control like Jesus had by following him and learning to be more like him. This story is one example of how **[Bottom Line] discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice.**

[Make it Personal] *(Tell kids about a time when you had to show self-control. Was there a particular Scripture passage or biblical principle that helped you make the wise choice?)* “Making the wise choice isn’t always the most fun choice, or what we want to do in the moment, but it’s always the right thing to do.”

•• **CHOICE OR CONSEQUENCE** *(application activity)*

What You Need: “Choice or Consequence” activity page, die

What You Do:



- Let the kids take turns one at a time and roll the die.
- If they roll an even number, read a scenario from the activity page.
- If the person in the scenario made a good choice, give the group member a high five!
- If the person in the scenario made a poor choice, the group member should come up with a better choice for that situation. When he does, give him a high five! Ask if anyone else can come up with another good choice for that situation.
- If the group member rolls an odd number, he just passes the die to the next person without responding to a scenario.
- Continue until everyone has had at least one chance to respond to a scenario.

What You Say: “We all face choices every day where we have to make decisions. All day long, we can either make a good choice or a bad choice. In the situations in the game, it was pretty obvious what was the good choice or the bad choice, but sometimes the good choice is not always so clear. Whenever we have a decision to make, we need to stop and think about what the wise choice is. If you aren’t sure what the wise choice is, remember that **[Bottom Line] discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice.**”

•• **MEMORE VERSE RACE** (*memory verse activity*)

What You Need: 3 sets of “Lamp Verse” cards

What You Do:

- Divide your group into 3 teams.
- Shuffle the “Lamp Verse” cards and set them on the center of the table.
- Teams will compete to find a full set of cards to complete the memory verse.
- The first team to get the verse in order and yell, “Make a wise choice,” wins.

What You Say: “Our memory verse tells us that God’s Word is a lamp for our feet, a light on our path. It would have been impossible to play this game in the dark, without any light. But God doesn’t want you to be in the dark; God wants to guide and help you. God’s Word is the most important thing to know. God’s Word helps you know and follow Jesus. **[Bottom Line] Discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice.**”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids what kinds of choices kids their age have to make. (*What to wear, who to play with at recess, what to eat for a snack, what to watch or what game to play, when to do homework*)
- Group kids into pairs and let them talk about a choice they need to make this week.
- Encourage kids to pray together about the choices they face.
- Finish with the prayer below.

What You Say: “Today we learned a lot about the choices we make every day. We talked about making wise choices and how God’s Word is there to help us with the decisions we face. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, he was able to resist temptation because he knew there was something much better than what the devil was offering. As you talk to your partner, tell them about a choice you need to make this week and then pray for your partner’s choice.

(*Close in prayer after giving kids a short moment to pray silently.*) “God, we love you and we want to make the wise choice. Thank you for giving us your Word and also for giving us your Son to be a living example for us. We pray that you would help us this week with the

