

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.”
Psalm 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 a “Would you rather . . . ?” question and ask them to explain their answers.
- Encourage kids to make their own question for the group to answer. Examples:
 - Would you rather be a night owl or a morning person?
 - Would you rather jump in a pool of JELL-O® or marshmallow crème?
 - Would you rather do science or math all day at school?
 - Would you rather set the table before dinner or clear the table after dinner?

•• HIGHER OR LOWER?

What You Need: Deck of cards

What You Do:

- Give each kid a card and instruct them not to look at it.
- At the same time, kids will all put their cards on their foreheads so everyone can see what card they have. *(Make sure kids are clear that they shouldn’t know what card they are holding up.)*
- When everyone’s holding their cards up, instruct kids to look at everyone else’s card

and then decide if they think their card is the highest card, lowest card, or in the middle.

- If kids choose correctly, they keep their card.
- Kids who guessed wrong put their cards back into the pile.
- Shuffle the cards and play again. Play several rounds.
- The kid with the most cards at the end wins.

What You Say: “It is important to collect information before making a choice. In this game, even though you didn’t know what your card was, knowing everyone else’s card helped you make a choice. **[Transition]** Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship we’ll hear/we heard what can really help you make the wisest choices.”

[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.

•• KNOCK IT OUT OF THE PARK *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

What You Need: 3 balls, masking tape, pens, Bible

What You Do:

- Review the Bible story in Luke 4:1-13. Refer to Matthew 4:1-11 if necessary. Discuss the three temptations Christ faced:
 - To turn bread into stone
 - To serve the devil and not serve God
 - To test God by throwing himself off a cliff
- Write each temptation on a piece of masking tape and stick it to a ball.
- Ask: How did Jesus make the wise choice by resisting temptation and the devil’s taunts? *(by using God’s Word)*
- Have kids *(leaders, too!)* write “God’s Word” on pieces of masking tape and stick them to the palms of their dominate hands.

What You Say: “Jesus was able to resist temptation and make the wise choice with the power of God’s Word. Jesus was hungry but he knew God’s Word says: “*Man must not live only on bread*” (Luke 4:4 NIV). *(Use your hand to knock the “bread temptation” ball away from you.)* Jesus knew that serving anyone or anything except God was not wise because God’s Word says: “*Worship the Lord your God. God is the only one you should serve*” (Luke 4:8 NIV). *(Use your hand to knock the “serve temptation” away from you)* Jesus knew God could save him but Jesus also knew that God’s Word says: “*Do not test the Lord your God*” (Luke 4:12 NIV). *(Use your hand to knock the “cliff temptation” away from you.)*

What You Do:

- Tell kids it’s their turn to “knock temptation away.”
- Ask kids to take turns writing an example of a temptation or unwise choice and taping it to a ball. *(Three people can go at a time.)* For example: stealing, lying, gossiping, or trying to obtain more than we need.
- Each time a kid knocks a temptation ball away, he must say the Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line]** **Discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice**, before it is the next group member’s turn.

What You Say: “Jesus knew the power of God’s Word; he knew what God says about each of the decisions he faced. Jesus was strong and made wise choices. Just like Jesus, you face temptations and decisions you have to make, and just like Jesus, **[Bottom Line]** **discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice**, too. God’s Word gave Jesus the knowledge to make the wise choice, and

God's Word can give you knowledge to make the wise choice too. So the next time you are faced with a decision and you are unsure what to do, learn something new about God's Word so you can be better at whatever you do and make the wisest choices."

•• **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 "Choice or Consequence" 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.**"

•• **MEMORY 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.**"

Discussion Questions:

- Encourage kids to think of times they made a wise choice. How do you know when you have made a wise choice? *(it's biblical—supported by God's Word; the people you hang out with who also follow Jesus supported your choice; it's Spirit-led and results in acting out the fruits of the Spirit—Galatians 5:22; it elevates Christ)*
- Does making the wise choice always result in making others happy or making everything work out perfectly? Why or why not? Can anyone give an example? *(Sometimes the wise choice is the most difficult choice; sometimes it leads to difficulties...but that doesn't mean it's not the best choice. God is always with us, no matter what!)*
- What are some benefits of making the wise choice? What are some of the consequences of not making the wise choice?
- **[Make It Personal]** *(Share an age appropriate story about the benefits of a wise choice or consequences of an unwise choice. What was the result? Would you do things differently if you found yourself in a similar situation? How did God's Word play into your decision-making?)*



-- NOTES --

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 choices we have to make and help us to make the wise choice. We ask that you would make wise choices clear to us in every situation through your Word and through the wise people you have put into our lives."

[Apply] Give each parent a Faith Five Family Tools as they come to pick up their child and remind them to use it as a family devotional tool this week.

As the kids leave, give them a high five when they fill in the blank as you say the **[Bottom Line]** Discovering what God says helps you make the _____ (wise choice!).