



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,  
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:** “Bible” coloring page, crayons

**What You Do:**

- Hand out “Bible” coloring pages and crayons. As kids color:
- Invite the kids to share anything they discovered about what God says this past week.

Ask them:

—What do you know to be true about God? (*God loves us; God created the world; God is always with us*)

—What do you know to be true about the Bible? (*It is a gift to us from God to help us learn how to follow Jesus in how we love God and love others*)

—What does the Bible teach us? (*How to be better followers of Jesus*)

•• TRUE OR FALSE?

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Read a statement below (*or create your own*). Guide the kids to do one motion (*such as pat their knees then clap their hands*) if the statement is true and another motion



(such as stomp their feet) if the statement is false.

- |   |                                  |                                |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| —The sky is purple.                     | —Fish can walk.                  | —You see with your hair.       |
| —The sky is green.                      | —Turtles can fly.                | —You hear with your ears.      |
| —The sky is blue.                       | —Bees buzz.                      | —You see with your eyes.       |
| —Oranges are purple.                    | —People have three eyes.         | —You smell with your toes.     |
| —Oranges are orange.                    | —People have 10 ears.            | —You smell with your nose.     |
| —Q is the first letter of the alphabet. | —People have one mouth.          | —God loves you.                |
| —A is the first letter of the alphabet. | —Zebras have stripes.            | —God loves you no matter what! |
| —Dogs and cats have six legs.           | —Horses have rainbow polka dots. |                                |

• Keep interest high by varying your pace and maintaining high energy. You can also add fun by feigning disbelief when the kids declare some statements false; the kids will love it! (“Turtles can’t fly? Are you sure? Hmm. Do they drive cars?” “Horses don’t have rainbow polka dots? Oh, they must have blue polka dots! No? Green polka dots? When did horses stop having colorful polka dots? I had no idea!”)

**What You Say:** “Great job! Was it easy or hard to know which statements were true and which statements were false? **[Transition]** Today in Large Group Worship/WOW Family Worship, we’ll hear/we heard about someone who tried to trick a person into thinking some things were true, but that person quickly knew they were false.”

[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.

### ●● LIGHT FOR MY PATH *(memory verse activity)*

**What You Need:** “Lamp, Light” cards

#### **What You Do:**

- Set the “Lamp, Light” cards on the floor about 20 feet from your small group table.
- Choose a kid to get the first card. The trick is, he has to close his eyes. You should carefully guide him toward the cards by holding his hand or leading him by his shoulders. Provide lots of help as he bends over and guide his hand to help him pick the first card. Then, help him safely navigate his way back to the table.
- Continue with different kids until all of the cards have been retrieved.
- When kids collect all the cards, lead them to work together to put the cards in order.
- Read the verse aloud with the group.
- Then, put the cards back on the floor, but this time, choose kids to get them one at a time with their eyes open.
- When all of the cards have been collected, put the cards in order again and review the verse together.

**What You Say:** “Boy! It was MUCH easier to get the cards when your eyes were open, wasn’t it?!” It is hard to find things in the dark! Psalm 119:105 says: ‘Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path’ (NIV). How can God’s Word be like a light that guides us? *(It shows me what God wants me to do; it shows me the way God wants me to go.)*

“How was God’s Word like a light for Jesus when the devil tried to make him do the wrong things? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus used the truth of what God said to go against the devil’s tricks. And because Jesus knew what God had said, he made the wise choice. Learning what God



says can help you make wise choices, too! So remember: **[Bottom Line] discovering what God says help you make the wise choice.**"

•• **WHO SAID?** *(application activity/review the Bible story)*

**What You Need:** Spark Story Bible

**What You Do:**

- Read "Tempted" (p. 248-251) from the Spark Story Bible to review today's Bible story.
- Choose a kid to be a "bell." She should make a pleasant bell sound at the appropriate time.
- Choose a kid to be a "buzzer." She should make an unpleasant buzzer sound at the appropriate time.
- Read the quotes below.
- Guide kids to quickly discuss the quote amongst themselves, and then ask the "bell" to ring if the quote is something Jesus said or ask the "buzzer" to buzz if the quote is something the devil said.
  - "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread" (Luke 4:3 NIRV). *(The devil)*
  - "It is written: 'Man must not live only on bread'" (Luke 4:4 NIRV). *(Jesus)*
  - "If you worship me, it will all be yours" (Luke 4:7 NIRV). *(The devil)*
  - "Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve" (Luke 4:8). *(Jesus)*
  - "Throw yourself down from here. It is written, 'The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won't trip over a stone'" (Luke 4:9-11 NIRV). *(The devil)*
  - "Scripture says, 'Do not test the Lord your God'" (Luke 4:12 NIRV). *(Jesus)*

**What You Say:** "The devil promised Jesus food, the whole world, honor—everything! But Jesus knew what God said, and so instead of following the devil's tricks, he followed what God said and made the wise choice.

**[Bottom Line] "Discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice, too!** What are some things you know that God has said that can help you make the wise choice? *(love God, love others, be kind, tell the truth, worship only God, honor your parents, treat others the way you want to be treated, etc.)* So remember: **[Bottom Line] Discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice."**

•• **WISE CHOICES** *(application activity)*

**What You Need:** "Wise Choices" activity page

**What You Do:**

- Lead kids in a review-packed, application-abundant version of Mother, May I?
- Guide kids to line up shoulder-to-shoulder at one end of your area while you stand at the opposite end.
- Call out a child's name and read one scenario from the "Wise Choices" activity page.
- Encourage the kid to figure out one way she would make the wise choice in that situation.
- Each time a kid answers, say, "Discovering what God said helped you make the wise choice. Move forward \_\_\_\_\_ (3 steps, 2 hops, 1 giant step, 5 baby steps, etc.)."
- Note: If you run out of scenarios, create your own, or repeat the given scenarios and challenge the kids to come up with new answers.
- The game ends when every child reaches you.
- Variation: Invite kids to play in pairs. This can help shy or reluctant children enjoy the game more.

**What You Say:** "How can discovering what God says help you make the wise choice? *(Pause.)* Yes! When you know what God says, you can know how to make the wise choice. **[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a time when knowing what God said helped you make the wise choice.)** And you know what? Just like God helped me make the wise choice, God will help you make the wise choice, too. So remember: **[Bottom Line] Discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice."**

