



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:

Ask them:

—What is something new you learned this week or are working on learning? (*Writing my name; tying my shoes; putting on my coat, hat and mittens by myself*)

—Is it fun to learn new things? (*Sometimes frustrating?*)

—What is something new you’d like to learn? Who could help you? (*Mom, dad, teachers, older siblings, etc.*)

•• **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 stand up; jump up and down*) if the statement is true and another motion (*such as sit down; thumbs down*) if the statement is false.



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

• 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, work together to put the cards in order.
- Read the verse aloud for the group, having them repeat each phrase after you.
- 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.
- Invite the kids to make a pleasant bell sound (*Ding!*) at the appropriate time.
- Invite them to make an unpleasant buzzer (*BZZZZ!*) sound at the appropriate time.
- Read the quotes below.
- Discuss the quote and decide together if the quote is something Jesus said (*Ding!*) or (*BZZZZ!*) if the quote is something the devil said. You can give them hints by the way you say the quote, i.e. if it’s said by the devil, say it one way; if it’s Jesus’ quote, say it another way.
 - “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread” (Luke 4:3 NIV). (*The devil*)
 - “It is written: ‘Man must not live only on bread’” (Luke 4:4 NIV). (*Jesus*)
 - “If you worship me, it will all be yours” (Luke 4:7 NIV). (*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 NIV). (*The devil*)
 - “Scripture says, ‘Do not test the Lord your God’” (Luke 4:12 NIV). (*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.”

PRAY AND SEND

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite kids to gather closely around you.
- Use the conversation below to lead the kids into a time of prayer.

What You Say: “Today you learned that **[Bottom Line]** discovering what God says helps you make the wise choice. When you know what God says, you can know how to make the wise choice. And you know what? God will ALWAYS help you do the right thing when you ask God. So let’s pray...

Dear God, thank you that you always hear our prayers. Help us remember what you say so we can make the wise choice. Help us to not only know what is right, but also have the courage to do what is right. We love you. Thank you for loving us. Amen.”

[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, encourage them to fill in the blank as you say the **[Bottom Line]** Discovering what God says helps you make the _____ (*wise choice!*).