



WEEK ONE – OCTOBER 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Jesus Tempted in the Wilderness | Luke 4:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11*

Bottom Line: *Be ready to do the right thing*

Memory Verse: *“God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. – 1 Peter 1:3a (NirV)*

Virtue: *Self-Control – Choosing to do what’s best, even when you don’t want to*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what*

Series Overview: There are a lot of choices that we need to make in life. Some of those choices can help us grow and shape us positively. Others can pull us in different directions, leaving us struggling to figure out which choice is best. What do we do when we’re confronted with all of these choices? Do we rush ahead? Or do we pause and let God lead us toward the best way to act? Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. It’s one of the ways we can tell that God is transforming our lives and that we’re growing in our faith. Thankfully, we don’t have to find self-control on our own. When we follow Jesus, God’s Spirit is with us and helps us make the wise choice.

Bottom Line: Be ready to do the right thing. There may be moments in our lives when we’re faced with many different choices—both good and bad. The right thing may not always be the easy thing to do. But we can practice doing the right thing by being ready and asking God to help us make the wise choice.

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Ball

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a fist bump or high five
- Instruct the kids to form a large, standing circle.
- Join the circle yourself, holding the playground ball (or similar).
- Explain that you'll ask a question and then toss the ball to someone in the circle to share their answer.
- Toss the ball to any kid in the circle.
- Read a question from the list below.
- After that kid shares their response, invite them to toss the ball back to you.
- Toss the ball to someone else in the circle, and ask them a different question.
- Repeat in this way and repeat questions so different kids can share different responses as time allows.
 - How would you prepare for a big soccer game?
 - How would you get yourself ready for a play or musical at a fancy theater?
 - How would you prepare for a pie-eating competition?
 - How do you get ready for a math test?
 - How would you get yourself ready to meet your favorite celebrity?

What You Say:

“Way to be ready for each question! I loved getting to hear how each one of you would get ready in different scenarios! *[Transition]* Today, we're going to discover how Jesus showed us we can be ready for something really important.”

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: We start the month in Luke 4:1-13. We see how Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and tempted by the devil for 40 days. Jesus was able to face these temptations because He was prepared and understood God’s Word. In this passage, we can see from Jesus’ actions how important it is to be prepared. Then, with God’s help, we’ll be able to face whatever situations come our way.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

Deal or No Deal

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “Deal or No Deal” Activity Pages, wall tape, dry-erase board, and dry-erase marker

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Use the wall tape to attach the folded fifteen “Deal or No Deal” Activity Pages in a random order to a wall (or the floor) in a grid pattern.
 - Make sure the dollar amounts of the suitcases are hidden. Reinforce their closure with tape if necessary.
- Instruct the teams to take turns sending one kid to unfold a suitcase to reveal a dollar amount.
- Once a suitcase is chosen, encourage that team to decide:
 - “Deal”: Keep the points under the suitcase.

- “No Deal”: Choose a different suitcase to unfold for a chance to earn more points.
 - If the team decides to open a different suitcase, instruct them to put the suitcase back and choose a different one to open.
 - If the suitcase contains a lower number, instruct that team to answer a review question (see below).
- Keep track of each team’s money earned on the dry-erase board (or paper)—the team with the most money wins!
- Once the game is over, ask any remaining Review Questions from below that did not get asked.
 - QUESTIONS:
 - Where did God’s Spirit lead Jesus after Jesus was baptized? (*the desert*)
 - How many days did Jesus not eat any food as He focused on spending time with God? (*40*)
 - What was the first thing Jesus’ enemy, the devil, tried to tempt Him to do? (*turn stone to bread*)
 - How did Jesus respond to the devil when tempted to turn the stone into bread? (*Jesus quoted Scripture. He said: “Man must not live only on bread.” —Luke 4:4, NIrV*)
 - In our Bible Story today found in the book of Luke about Jesus’ temptation, what was the second way the devil tried to tempt Jesus? (*The devil took Jesus to a high place and said he would give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus worshipped him.*)
 - Can you finish this phrase Jesus said? “*Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should _____ .*” —*Luke 4:8, NIrV (serve)*
 - In our Bible Story today found in the book of Luke, what was the third temptation from the devil? (*The devil led Jesus to the highest point in Jerusalem, and said: “If you are the Son of God . . . throw yourself down from here.” —Luke 4:9, NIrV*)

- Can you fill in the missing word from Jesus' response to the devil? "Do not _____ the Lord your God." —Luke 4:12, *NIV (test)*
- How many of the devil's temptations did Jesus give in to? (*None!*)
- Why do you think Jesus could respond so well to the devil's temptations? (*Jesus spent His whole life preparing by studying Scripture. Jesus knew God, and He knew God's heart.*)

What You Say:

"Great job, friends! How did you decide: 'Deal' or 'No Deal'? How did you decide which suitcase to choose? (Invite responses.) Knowing the details from our story today helped you be ready for whatever came next in our game. Strategizing with your team helped you be ready to choose a suitcase.

*"Today, we discovered that because Jesus knew God and God's Word, He was ready to face His enemy's temptations. The devil was tempting Jesus to disobey God. But Jesus knew how important it was to **[Bottom Line] be ready to do the right thing.** We can do the same as we prepare to have self-control! Whether it's spending time reading the Bible or continuing to come to church to learn more about God, we can **[Bottom Line] be ready to do the right thing.**"*

Pray + Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Index Cards; markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid an index card and a marker
- Encourage kids to spend a few minutes writing down a prayer on their index card asking God for help in being ready to do the right thing.
- Prompt kids with examples as needed, like:

- You can ask God to help you make time to pray.
- You can ask God to give you the strength to make wise choices, etc.
- Close the group time in prayer.

What You Say:

*“Dear God, thank You for helping us **[Bottom Line]** be ready to do the right thing. We know Your Holy Spirit can help us so we are always ready to have self-control and do what’s right. Thank You for the many ways we can learn more about You, so we can follow You. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today’s Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] Be ready to do the right thing.