

Jesus and the Devil

Aim: To talk about what Lent is, and to perhaps encourage the children to give something up for Lent

Occasion: Lent 1

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Game: Get the keys (for the younger children)

Have the children line up against a wall. On the other side of the room, the leader sits on a chair facing the wall, and puts a set of keys under the chair.

The idea is that the children are to sneak across the room and try to be the first to get the keys. However, to make this harder, the leader sitting on the chair can turn around at anytime, and anyone who is still moving when they do, has to go back and start again.

Game: The jellybeans or the bag! (for older children)

What you need: set of questions, big bowl of jelly beans, three small bowls, three 'mystery prizes', 3 sets of 5 pieces of paper and three pens

What to do: Ask for three volunteers. Give each volunteer a set of paper and a pen for writing their answers to the questions on.

Explain that you will ask them five questions in total, and one question at a time. They are to write their answers on the paper and when asked, hold them up. For each correct answer, they get a point.

At the end of five questions, the person with the most points gets to pick a mystery prize. The person with the next highest amount of points gets to pick the next mystery prize. And the last person gets the last mystery prize.

This is where the jellybeans come in. Do this one at a time with each volunteer.

Give the volunteer a small bowl. Put two jelly beans in their bowl, and ask them 'Do you want the jellybeans, or the mystery prize?' Assuming they pick the prize, tempt them again by adding more jellybeans to the bowl and ask the question again 'Do you want the jellybeans or the mystery prize?' If they still pick the prize, tempt them one more time, adding lots more jellybeans and asking the question a third time.

If they pick the prize, give it to them and get them to show everyone what it is. If they pick the jellybeans, show everyone what they would have gotten.

Repeat with each volunteer.

Note: The idea is that the prize is more valuable than the jellybeans to go along with the story. You might like to make it a story book, or a journal, or a cross pendant, or a candle.



Story: Luke 4:1-13 Jesus and the Devil

After Jesus had been baptised, and the power of the Holy Spirit was with him, the Spirit led Jesus into the desert.

For forty days Jesus was tested by the devil, and during that time he went without eating. When it was all over, he was hungry!

The devil said to Jesus 'If you are God's Son, tell this stone to turn into bread.'

Jesus answered, 'The Scriptures say, 'No one can live only on food.'

Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place and quickly showed him all the nations on earth. The devil said, 'I will give all this power and glory to you. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. Just worship me, and you can have it all.'

Jesus answered, 'The Scriptures say: Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'

Finally, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and had him stand on top of the temple. The devil said, 'If you are God's Son, jump off. The Scriptures say:

'God will tell his angels to take care of you. They will catch you in their arms, and you will not hurt your feet on the stones.'

Jesus answered, 'The Scriptures also say, 'don't try to test the Lord your God!'

After the Devil had finished testing Jesus in every way possible, he left him for a while.

Talk:

Jesus had a hard time in today's story. First off, he went for forty days without food! That's almost six weeks! And on top of that, while he was hungry, the devil decided that it was a perfect time to tempt Jesus into doing bad things!!! Do you think it was hard for Jesus? (pause for answers). Well, I know that I would find it hard. Just going without food would be difficult! What are some things that you would find hard to give up? Maybe watching TV, or riding your bike (pause).

This Sunday is a special time in the church year. It is the first Sunday of Lent. Does anyone know what Lent is? (pause). Well Lent is the forty days before Easter Sunday. It starts on Ash Wednesday and during Lent, people often 'give up' things such as food, or watching TV and use that time to stop and think about Jesus and what he gave up for us.

We've already talked about some things that we would find hard to give up. You might like to think about whether you want to try and give one of those things up for just this week, and see how hard it is. Then maybe next Sunday, we can talk about what it was like.

Or if you don't want to give something up, you may like to use today's activity to help you take time to remember Jesus each day.

Questions:

- What is Lent?
- What things would you find hard to give up?
- Do you think it was hard for Jesus to be tempted by the devil?



Activity: Sorry, Thanks and Please
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What you need:

- (per child) three envelopes
- 1 x A3 piece of card or paper
- cello tape
- pens
- other things to decorate with
- three pieces of note sized paper

What to do: On each of the envelopes, get the children to write (for the younger ones you can write this for them) 'Sorry' on the first envelope, 'Thanks' on the second and 'Please' on the third. Make sure they write this on the **back** of the envelope.

On the piece of card, get the children to write at the top, 'Dear God', and at the bottom, 'Amen' Attach the three envelopes, one above the other in this order 'Sorry', 'Thanks' and 'Please'

How to use: The idea is that each day, the children try to use this prayer guide to help them pray to God. On a piece of paper, they write all the things that they are sorry about. Maybe they said something mean to someone, maybe they didn't tidy their room when their mum asked them to etc. They put this in the envelope marked 'Sorry'.

On another piece of paper, they write all the things that they want to say thank you for. Eg they had a good game of rugby at lunch time, or they got a good mark on a piece of school work etc. They put this in the envelope marked 'Thanks'

On a third piece of paper, they write all the things that they want to ask God's help for. Eg help me to listen to my teacher, help me to be nicer to my sister etc. They put this in the envelope marked 'Please'.

If they don't want to write it down, or are too young to, they might like to draw pictures instead of words, or just look at the envelopes to remind them of what they need to pray about.

Extra: As part of teaching the children about giving something up for Lent in order to remember Jesus, you may like to use the following idea.

At the beginning of the lesson, ask all the children to pull a piece of paper out of a hat. On the pieces of paper, will be something they have to do. E.g. You can't talk for the rest of the lesson. You must wear a blindfold. You can't use your right hand. Etc

When it comes time to do the 'talk', you may want to make space to talk about what it was like to 'give up' something for themselves.

