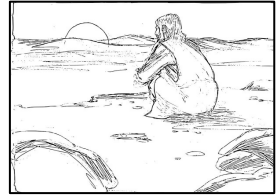


**First Sunday of Lent, Cycle B**  
**Making the Connection (Grades 7 and 8)**  
**Gospel Reading Mark 1:12-15**  
**Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan**



Young people will continue to depend on others in important ways throughout their lives. Even as we assist their increasing independence, we can encourage them to remember that depending on God is a source of strength in their lives.

**Preparation for Sunday Scripture Readings**

**OPTIONAL :**

**Materials Needed**

- Packaging from various items indicating where the item was made and a cell phone
1. Prepare in advance by collecting packaging for several items that indicates where the item was made. Distribute this packaging to several young people and begin by asking them **to find the detail that tells where the item was made**. Observe that sometimes this information is written in fine print and is difficult to find. Allow others in the group to help as needed until this information is found.
  2. Next, display a cell phone. Ask how a cell phone can increase a young person's independence. Observe that even as we use items that expand our independence, we depend on many other people to produce these items, deliver them to us, and keep them operating properly. Help the group identify jobs people have that **contribute to the manufacturing, distribution, and sales** of a cell phone
  3. Introduce this Sunday's Gospel: ***On this first Sunday of Lent, we hear a short reading from the Gospel of Saint Mark, which gives a brief account of Jesus' forty days in the desert. Within this account is an important reminder for us as we begin this Lenten season. Let's pay close attention as this Gospel is read.***
  4. Invite a volunteer to read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Mark 1:12–15.
  5. ***What details about Jesus' temptation in the desert are described in this Gospel?*** (The Spirit led Jesus to the desert; Jesus stayed there for forty days; Jesus was tempted by Satan.)  
***Who is with Jesus in the desert?*** (Wild beasts, angels)  
***What does this Gospel tell us about the angels?*** (The angels ministered to Jesus during his forty days in the desert.)
  6. ***During Lent, we seek to strengthen our resolve to resist temptation. However, God does not expect us to do this on our own. God helps us, giving us the Holy Spirit in Baptism. God also gives us the community of the Church to help us. What can we do during Lent to accept the help God gives us to resist temptation?***  
(Accept all reasonable answers.)
  7. **Conclude in prayer, asking God to strengthen our resolve to resist temptations.**
  8. Pray together the psalm for this Sunday, **Psalm 25** - ***Ask them to look up the Psalm in their Bibles***

***To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. In you, O my God, I have trusted;  
let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.  
Let none who hope in you be put to shame;  
but shamed are those who wantonly break faith.  
O LORD, make me know your ways. Teach me your paths.  
Guide me in your truth, and teach me; for you are the God of my salvation.  
I have hoped in you all day long. 6 Remember your compassion, O LORD,  
and your merciful love, for they are from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions.  
In your merciful love remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD.  
Good and upright is the LORD; he shows the way to sinners.  
He guides the humble in right judgment; to the humble he teaches his way.  
All the LORD's paths are mercy and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and commands.  
O LORD, for the sake of your name, forgive my guilt, for it is great. Amen***