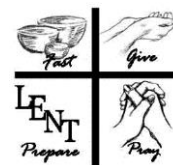


1ST Sunday of LENT – Cycle B

Making the Connection (Grades 4, 5, and 6)



(OPTION 2) THEME Jesus is tempted in the desert by Satan

Older children are developing the capacity to reflect upon temptation and sin. We can encourage this positive development in their lives by assuring them that God helps us. The season of Lent provides us with an opportunity to recommit ourselves to this lifelong challenge.

Materials Needed: Paper and pencils / A basket

Preparation for Sunday Scripture Readings

1. Ask: ***What are some temptations that young people face?*** Together make a list of some of these temptations.
2. Distribute paper and pencils to the group.

Invite them to pray about this question: What is one thing that regularly tempts you?

Then ask them to write their temptation on the paper and to fold the paper in half.

3. Invite one or more volunteers to read aloud today's **Gospel, Mark 1:12-15.**
4. Say: ***In Mark's Gospel, we don't hear details about how Satan tempted Jesus, nor do we hear how Jesus succeeded in resisting temptation. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' battle with Satan continues throughout his life, to be concluded only at his death on the cross.***
5. Say: ***During Lent, we focus on resisting temptation in our lives. We renew our commitment to resist certain temptations, but our efforts during Lent are only the beginning. We pray that what we begin during each Lent will continue long after.***
6. Allow some time for prayer and reflection. Ask children to think about the following questions: ***How will you try to resist the temptation you wrote down? What help will you need to do this?*** Say: ***Remember, no one succeeds in resisting temptation alone. God helps us!***
7. Lead the children in a prayer for God's help to resist temptation.



When you have finished, invite the children to tear up the paper on which they wrote their temptation and to place the pieces in the basket.

Pray the Act of Contrition.

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.
In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good,
I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.
I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more,
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.
Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us.
In his name, my God, have mercy.

