

WEEK 3
LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I believe God
is powerful.

BIBLE

Jesus in the Wilderness:
Matthew 4:1–11

ABOUT THIS WEEK

While you're out camping, you might be tempted to head off trail, but that choice could get you lost and unsure how to get back. This week, we'll take a look at the story where Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and used God's words to defend against the tempter. Jesus' responses show us just how strong and powerful God is, so we can say, "**I believe God is powerful.**"

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Rock, Paper, Scissors

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach kids how to chant "rock, paper, scissors" while tapping a fist on the other palm with each word. At "scissors," they have to show the motion they choose. Practice a few times with everybody, then have kids pair up and verse each other. Have them go around the room with a different partner until you call time. Time it so they each reveal their choice at the same time (at "scissors").
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Offer toddlers some one-on-one time with a patty cake-type game where you gently clap a kid's hands as you chant together, "God is powerful! So so powerful!"
- Powerful means something is very strong. In "Rock, Paper, Scissors," each move can be beaten by another move.
 - Paper is more powerful than rock.
 - Rock is more powerful than scissors.
 - Scissors are more powerful than paper.
- No matter how powerful something is, there is always something more powerful than that. But not with God! God is the most powerful. We will hear an amazing story about just how powerful God is today.

ACTIVITY | Three Of A Kind

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This is a collaborative game where kids have to work together to find three of any given item. Call out different objects that can easily be found around the room, and you have multiple of (book, crayon, something red, shoe). Kids have to work quickly to bring three of the items you indicated. Once three are brought to the front, name a different object.
- Thank you for helping me find three of everything I need! **Can you show me the number three with your fingers?**
- Three is a very important number for today's Bible story. Something happened to Jesus three times, and all three times, he showed that God is the most powerful!

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 4:1–11 (Jesus in the Wilderness)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below! Set up a campfire circle with an [inflatable campfire](#). The storyteller should dress like they've been camping.
- Hey, campers! My favorite part of camping is telling stories around the campfire. Come join me around the fire to hear an amazing story about Jesus.
- Once upon a time, God's Son Jesus came to live on earth with people. He was about to go on a big adventure. Jesus went to a place called the wilderness, sort of like our camping wilderness here.
- **What would you take if you were going camping in the wild?**
- Jesus didn't take any of that stuff. He spent forty days and nights in the wilderness, all alone. He didn't eat. He just wanted to spend time with God.
- **Do you know how many days there are in this month?** Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days. That's longer than a whole month!
- Then, a tricky visitor came to see Jesus. It was the devil. The devil, or the tempter, is not a friend of God. He wanted Jesus to be far from God. He tried to get Jesus to do something that went against God. He tried three times.
- Number one. The tempter told Jesus to turn stones into bread. Remember, Jesus had no food for forty days. He was very hungry! But the devil was trying to trick Jesus into using God's power in the wrong way.
- **What do you think Jesus said?** He said no!
- Number two. The tempter said to Jesus, "Come on, Jesus, you're so strong. Why don't you jump off that big, tall cliff? God's angels will save you."
- **What do you think Jesus said?** He said, "No! Don't test God!"
- Number three. The tempter showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and said, "You can have all of this if you just bow down to me."
- What do you think Jesus said? He said, "No! I will only worship God."
- Jesus was tempted three times. That means he was given a choice to disobey God. But all three times, he chose to follow God. He trusted God's words, and he showed that God was the most powerful. The devil went away after that.
- So, Jesus continued his journey. He showed everyone how strong he was, and his strength came from God!

BIG IDEA | I believe God is powerful.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hide each of the words of the Big Idea taped to a random camping-related item in a backpack, such as a water bottle, flashlight, or camp snacks. Invite one kid at a time to pull out an item revealing the word. Then have a leader put the words in order and prompt kids to repeat back the Big Idea using the hand motions listed below.
- Wow! Jesus was strong because of God! Strong enough to hold this heavy camping bag? That's for sure.
- What is even in here!? Let's put these words in order and form today's Big Idea.
 - **I** (point to self)
 - **believe** (fist pump the air)
 - **God** (point to sky)
 - **is powerful** (flex your arm muscles)

VIDEO | Camp Believe It, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | No, No, No!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, set up three hula hoops and use painter's tape inside the circle to number each one, two, and three. Have kids roam around the room while music plays. When the music stops, they have to go to one of the three circles quickly. Then, ask, "What do we say when we are tempted?" The kids in Circle one yell "No!" one time, Circle two yells, "No, no!" and Circle three yells, "No, no, no!" Repeat for as long as time and interest allow.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** You may not want to have toddlers exclaiming "no!" repeatedly when they probably don't understand the context fully. Guide them to each hoop and talk about how Jesus beat the devil one, two, three times! Have them count along with you.
- Jesus showed us what to do when we are tempted to do something that goes against God. **What do we say?** No! No, no! No, no, no!
- How might we be tempted?
 - We could be tempted to say something untrue.
 - We could be tempted to take something that isn't ours.
 - We could be tempted to be unkind to our friends.
- But we can turn away from temptation by asking for God's help. **I believe God is powerful** and can help me, and you say no to anything that pulls us away from God!

PRAYER

- Dear God, I believe you are powerful. Help me to be strong and say no when I am tempted. Amen.

SHARING TIME**SNACK | Power Snacks**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a fruit or veggie snack of your choice, such as banana halves, mini fruit bowls, or carrot sticks with ranch.
- Healthy snacks can help make us strong. God is the strongest and most powerful of all!
- **What is your favorite snack?**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass around a jar with sand to represent the desert or wilderness as you review these questions together.
- **Where did Jesus go to spend time with God?** The wilderness or desert.
- **How many days did Jesus go without eating food?** Forty days.
- **What happened when Jesus was in the wilderness?** The devil tried to tempt and trick Jesus.
- **How many times was Jesus tempted? What did he say each time?** Three times. He said no!
- **Who is the most powerful?** God!
- Let's say our Big Idea together: **I believe God is powerful.**

ACTIVITY | Paper Desert

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show kids how to tear construction paper into strips (pro tip: it rips more easily vertically). Help them glue on the different construction paper layers to create a desert and sky. You could also have them draw a silhouette (or stick figure) of Jesus standing in the wilderness once the glue dries. See worked example [here](#).
- God made the desert and the sky and everything else in the world. God is so powerful! Jesus stayed strong when tempted in the wilderness because he knew the truth: **I believe God is powerful.**

MEMORY VERSE | John 6:69 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words (including the Scripture reference) to the tune of "Rain, Rain, Go Away." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- "We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God."

PLAY TIME**ACTIVITY | Coloring Page**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Desert Sensory Bin

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Using a shallow bin or container, fill it with sand (or sensory play sand), small plastic desert animals (camels or snakes), small rocks or pebbles, and small plastic or toy bread pieces (representing Jesus' temptation with bread). You could also include a small toy mountain.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Toddler hands are busy gaining dexterity as they pull on a toy or test a lid. Offer activities like fitting pieces in a puzzle or using crayons to develop these skills during play time further.

ACTIVITY | Power Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide blocks, bowling pins, or other objects to stack or stand up. Have kids toss small foam balls to knock them down. Talk about how God is so powerful.