

# GROW kids

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (B)



## Story of the week

**Mark 1:9-15**

Jesus is tempted

## Focus of the week

Jesus overcame the temptations of the devil for us



## Introduction

Lent is the season of preparation for Easter. It is a time of self-examination and repentance. There are forty days in Lent, not counting Sundays. During Lent our eyes are focused on the cross, more specifically on our Saviour who died on the cross.



## Welcome

*Welcome the children and parents.  
Invite participants to share a high or low of the week.  
Make a note of some of the responses and include them in prayer at the end of your session.  
You might like to respond to the following question.*

**What are some things we need in order to live?**



# Story telling

## Background story notes

Jesus has come to rescue all people from sin, death and the power of the devil. Jesus must go through testing and temptation from the devil. These forty days also remind us of the forty years of testing faced by Israel in the desert after leaving Egypt. Jesus resists each temptation, answering the devil with the word of God.

## You will need

- Bible (you might like to choose to read this from a children's Bible)

## Read Mark 1:9-15

In the gospels we read about Jesus being tempted by the devil. The Spirit sent Jesus out into the wilderness. Jesus wanted to talk to God and tell him what was happening. Jesus stayed out in the wilderness for forty days. That is a long time to be alone.

The devil thought he would try to tempt Jesus to do some bad things. He tried to get Jesus to stop praying and listening to God. He knew Jesus was hungry and didn't have anything to eat, so he tempted him to turn the stones into bread. He tempted him with other things too, but Jesus was strong and trusted in God.

Jesus has beaten the devil because he trusted in God and remembered God's words. We can trust in Jesus and God's word when we are tempted too.



## Prayer

We encourage you to invite the participants to pray. You may like to begin with the following prayer, and also include some of the participants' highs and lows as shared at the beginning.

Dear Jesus, thank you for facing temptations just like we have to face them sometimes. Thank you for winning the fight against the devil. Be with us when we are tempted, and help us to be strong and trust in you always. Amen.



## Blessing

Encourage participants to bless each other, using the following words (or you can make up your own).

(Name), may God give you strength to win against all temptations.



## Creative response

### What to do

Talk about the temptations the devil tries to use against Jesus and us. Draw pictures of ways we can be strong when we are tempted.

For example, **People do not live on bread alone...** draw food but also people who look after us, shelter, Bible and other things that God gives us to live well. **Worship the Lord your God and serve only him...** draw us praying, singing, Bible etc.

### You will need

- Paper
- Coloured pencils, crayons, markers



### Catechism spotlight

In the Lord's Prayer, the sixth petition says:  
*Lead us not into temptation.*

God doesn't tempt anyone. But in this prayer, we are asking: 'Father, keep us safe from the devil, our sinful nature, and people who are against you. Don't let them trick us into losing our Christian faith, giving up all hope, or doing other terrible things. And even though they attack us, we pray that in the end we will win the victory.'

God tempts no one to sin, but we ask God to watch over us and protect us. And we pray that, even though we may be tempted, he will forgive us and we will live with him forever.

### You will need

- A copy of the Lord's Prayer



### Liturgical significance

The word Lent comes from a very old word for springtime. In the Northern Hemisphere, this church season leads out of winter and into spring. Lent is a solemn season in which Christians remember Jesus' suffering and death to pay for the sins of the human race.

Violet is the liturgical colour for the season of Lent. It's the colour of royalty, repentance, and self-discipline. This deep, rich colour represents a time of penitence and prayer.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, so called because in medieval times worshippers threw ashes over their heads as a sign of repentance. Many churches have a worship service on Ash Wednesday and on each Wednesday of the season of Lent.