

The Temptation of Jesus

A CHORUS PLAY BASED ON MATTHEW 4:1–11

Chorus plays are a type of Gospel Drama that present scriptural stories in the form of a play with both individual characters and a chorus. The chorus allows for a whole-group participation.

People required: Leader, Voice, Chorus. It might be helpful to have an additional reader read the designated "Chorus" lines and then have the rest of the children echo that reader.



Leader: From Matthew's Gospel:

Leader: The Holy Spirit led
Jesus into the desert.
There he was tempted.

Voice: Tested!

Chorus: Tested!

Leader: Jesus hadn't eaten
for forty days and forty nights.
He was very hungry.

Voice: Hungry?

Chorus: Hungry?

Leader: "If you are God's son, tell
these stones to turn to bread!"

Voice: Tested!

Chorus: Tested!

Leader: "No one can live on
bread alone. People need every
word that God has spoken."

Voice: Listen to God!

Chorus: Listen to God!

Leader: "If you are God's Son,
jump off the highest part of
the temple and let God's angels
catch you in their arms."

Voice: Tested!

Chorus: Tested!

Leader: "Don't test the
Lord your God!"

Voice: Listen to God!

Chorus: Listen to God!

Leader: "I will give you all this,"
said the voice of temptation, "if
you bow down and worship me."

Voice: Tested!

Chorus: Tested!

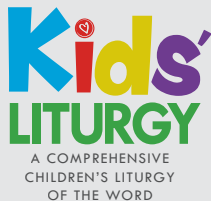
Leader: The Bible says, "Worship
the Lord your God and serve
only him."

Voice: Worship God!

Chorus: Worship God!

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Chorus: Praise to you,
Lord Jesus Christ.



This activity is adapted from First Sunday of Lent as found
in *Kids' Liturgy: A Comprehensive Liturgy of the Word*.

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man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said,

“Someone is shouting in the desert,
‘Prepare a road for the Lord;
make a straight path for him
to travel!’ ”

4 John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair; he wore a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. **5** People came to him from Jerusalem, from the whole province of Judea, and from all over the country near the Jordan River. **6** They confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan.


7 When John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him to be baptized, he said to them, “You snakes—who told you that you could escape from the punishment God is about to send? **8** Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins. **9** And don’t think you can escape punishment by saying that Abraham is your ancestor. I tell you that God can take these rocks and make descendants for Abraham! **10** The ax is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire. **11** I baptize you with water to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. **12** He has his winnowing shovel with him to thresh out all the grain. He will gather his wheat into his barn, but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out.”

The Baptism of Jesus

13 At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to

be baptized by him. **14** But John tried to make him change his mind. “I ought to be baptized by you,” John said, “and yet you have come to me!”

15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires.” So John agreed.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him. **17** Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased.” 

The Temptation of Jesus

4 **1** Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. **2** After spending forty days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry. **3** Then the Devil came to him and said, “If you are God’s Son, order these stones to turn into bread.”

4 But Jesus answered, “The scripture says, ‘Human beings cannot live on bread alone, but need every word that God speaks.’ ”

5 Then the Devil took Jesus to Jerusalem, the Holy City, set him on the highest point of the Temple, **6** and said to him, “If you are God’s Son, throw yourself down, for the scripture says,

‘God will give orders to his angels about you;
they will hold you up with their hands,
so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.’ ”

7 Jesus answered, “But the scripture also says, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

8 Then the Devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him

all the kingdoms of the world in all their greatness. **9** "All this I will give you," the Devil said, "if you kneel down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus answered, "Go away, Satan! The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!' "

11 Then the Devil left Jesus; and angels came and helped him.

Jesus Begins His Work in Galilee

12 When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he went away to Galilee. **13** He did not stay in Nazareth, but went to live in Capernaum, a town by Lake Galilee, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. **14** This was done to make come true what the prophet Isaiah had said,

15 "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
on the road to the sea, on the
other side of the Jordan,
Galilee, land of the Gentiles!

16 The people who live in darkness
will see a great light.
On those who live in the dark
land of death
the light will shine."

17 From that time Jesus began to preach his message: "Turn away from your sins, because the Kingdom of heaven is near!"

Jesus Calls Four Fishermen

18 As Jesus walked along the shore of Lake Galilee, he saw two brothers who were fishermen, Simon (called Peter) and his brother Andrew, catching fish in the lake with a net. **19** Jesus said to them, "Come with me, and I will teach you to catch people." **20** At once they left their nets and went with him.

21 He went on and saw two other brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in their boat with their father Zebedee, getting their nets ready. Jesus called them, **22** and at once they left the boat and their father, and went with him.

Jesus Teaches, Preaches, and Heals

23 Jesus went all over Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the Good News about the Kingdom, and healing people who had all kinds of disease and sickness. **24** The news about him spread through the whole country of Syria, so that people brought to him all those who were sick, suffering from all kinds of diseases and disorders: people with demons, and epileptics, and paralyzed people—and Jesus healed them all. **25** Large crowds followed him from Galilee and the Ten Towns, from Jerusalem, Judea, and the land on the other side of the Jordan.

The Sermon on the Mount

5 **1** Jesus saw the crowds and went up a hill, where he sat down. His disciples gathered around him, **2** and he began to teach them:

True Happiness

- 3** "Happy are those who know
they are spiritually poor;
the Kingdom of heaven
belongs to them!
- 4** "Happy are those who mourn;
God will comfort them!
- 5** "Happy are those who are
humble;
they will receive what God
has promised!