

# Junior Soldiers

UNIT 16 : LESSON 1



## When I am tempted

**PURPOSE:** For the children to explore how Jesus responded to temptation and to understand how, with his help, we can resist temptation.

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

1 Corinthians 10:13

## Consider & Prepare

Read:

Matthew 4:1-11

Life is full of temptations! Some of them are inconsequential – the temptation to eat another chocolate or buy a pair of shoes that are extravagant.

However, giving in to some temptations can damage our health, our relationships, and our faith. Consider the things that tempt you. How do you handle temptation? What helps you to live with integrity?

In this lesson, ensure that you draw a distinction between feeling tempted and giving in to temptation.

Take time to pray for your Junior Soldiers. Pray that they will continue to live healthy lives, relying on God to help them resist temptation.

**What you will need:**

**For 'Connecting In'**

- A device to play music on and suitable playlist
- Enough chairs or cushions for each child minus one
- A variety of treats, some small, some larger. For example, wrapped lollies, bars of chocolates, pencils, erasers, notebooks, fidget toys

**For 'The Main Thing'**

- Bibles - enough for each child
- Sticky notes or notepaper and pens

**For 'Memory Verse'**

- Write sections of the verse on cards

**For 'Home & Beyond'**

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child.

## **Connecting In**

Ask the children how they would define temptation. Or ask them if they can give an example of temptation.

Temptation is when we want to do or have something, usually something that is wrong or unwise.

### Activity...

Play musical chairs.

Place enough chairs (or cushions) in a circle for each child, minus one. Play some music. The children must circle around the chairs while the music plays. When the music stops, each child must race to sit on a chair (cushion). The child who misses out on a chair is 'out'. In this version of the game, explain to this child that they have the option of continuing to join in the fun and play the game or taking a treat and sitting out for the rest of the game. Either way, remove a chair. If a child seems particularly keen to keep playing, try tempting them with two treats or a different treat.

### Link...

In the game, I wonder if you were tempted to take the prize? Not everyone is tempted by the same thing and not all things that tempt us are clearly wrong. For example, you might be tempted to go for a healthy run when you have promised to clean your room.

In Matthew 4, there is a story about when Jesus was tempted. Let's take a look at it.

## The Main Thing

Ask the children to look up Matthew 4:1-11 and take turns reading it out loud.

Ask the children to read it again quietly. Provide them with sticky notes or paper and pens to write down any thoughts or questions that come to mind.

If you have a large group, divide the children into groups of 3-4 and give them a couple of these questions each to discuss then report back. Otherwise, discuss them together:

- What do you think this story is about?
- Why do you think this story is important?
- Why do you think Jesus was tempted by these things?
- Why do you think Jesus resisted these temptations?
- If you were in Jesus' place, what would you have done?

- What difference would it make if Jesus gave in to temptation. How would it have changed God's BIG story?
- How does this story help us to know how to respond when we are tempted?

Link...

Everyone is tempted at times - children, teenagers, adults. Even Jesus was tempted. It's not wrong to be tempted but sometimes temptation can lead us to making wrong choices.

## Tying In

I wonder what things tempt you. What are you tempted to have or do? Allow for responses

How can you respond when you are tempted? What will help you to resist temptation?

## Memory Verse

Write sections of the verse on different cards. Allow the children to read the verse several times. Turn one card over, ask the children to say the verse again – they can turn the card back over if they need to. Flip the first card back over then ask the children to say the verse again. Repeat several times.

## Prayer Time

Ask the children to stand in a circle and think about something they are tempted by.

Now, turn and walk away from the circle, as you ask God to help you walk away when you are tempted.

# Home & Beyond

Print off the 'Home & Beyond' cards attached. The children might like to keep these in their journals or notebook where they could write or stick the challenges, reflect, answer questions or complete activities each week.

# Home & Beyond

Whenever you notice yourself being tempted by something this week, make a note of what is tempting you. Take a walk and pray about these things. Ask a family member or your Big Bud about what they are tempted to have or do and how they resist temptation.

  
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