



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Exile

Jesus Tempted in the Desert
Luke 4:1-13
(Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be ready to do the right thing.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

HOST SUPPLIES

- Remote control
- Tap lights with batteries (one light for each small group)
- Table, wall space, or space on stage to place the tap lights (see "What You Do")
- Masking tape (optional)
- Printed script or cue card for the Host

STORY SUPPLIES

- Worship Leaders (to set up the backdrops)
- Four different scene backdrops (see "What You Do"): Alt. Computer Slides
 - River
 - Desert
 - Mountain
 - Temple
- Large stone (about the size of your hand)
- Step ladder (A frame style)

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- HAPPY NEW YEAR

- Invite Challenge

- This is a **NEW YEAR** and people are ready to start some new habits
- Our challenge is for you to think of someone you can invite in the month of January to come with you to church

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

Week 1 - This Is Living & Way Maker

Week 2 - There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & Never Lost

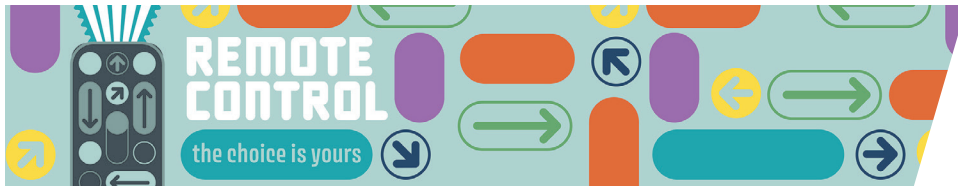
Week 3 - The Best Is Yet To Come & The Blessing

Week 4 - Might Get Loud & Graves Into Gardens

Week 5 - There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & The Blessing

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Exile

Jesus Tempted in the Desert
Luke 4:1-13
(Supporting: Matthew 4:1-11)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Be ready to do the right thing.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"God's power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life."
2 Peter 1:3a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Self-control—Choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER: "Happy New Year, friends! I am so excited to worship with you for the first time in 2022. We have so many reasons to celebrate and praise God! We are made in God's image. We can choose to do the right thing and follow God's good plan for our lives. Let's sing this together.

AUDIO: *This Is Living*

AUDIO: *Way Maker*

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everybody! Welcome to [your environment's name]. My name is [your name], and I'm SO glad you're here! This month, we're talking about self-control.

SLIDE: LIFE APP

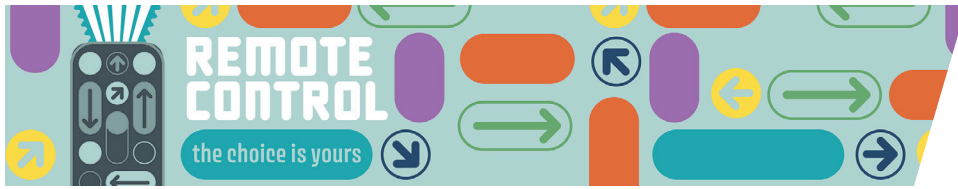
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Self-control is choosing to do what you should even when you don't want to.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"That's not always easy, is it? Wouldn't it be great if we had a special remote that we could use to control ourselves?"



WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP

K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Hold up the remote control.

"We could press PAUSE when we feel like saying something mean. (*Pretend to press a button.*) Maybe we could REWIND and keep ourselves from getting angry in the first place. (*Pretend to press a button.*) I know—we could SKIP ahead when we're tempted to eat a snack too close to dinner! (*Pretend to press a button.*)

"Obviously, we don't have a remote that can do all of that. But that's okay—because we DO know that God is always with us. God can help us choose self-control, even when it's tough!

"For our game today, it'll be like we're pressing buttons on a giant remote. You'll be playing with your whole small group! See what I mean? Here are your remote control buttons.

Walk to the tap lights which should be taped on a table, mounted on the wall, or attached to the edge of the stage.

Each light should be labeled for a different small group by name, number, etc. If possible, use tape lanes to make it very clear which button the kids should press. Make it a longer distance for the older kids to travel to hit their button compared to the kindergartners.

"I'll ask you a series of trivia questions. Before each question, you'll choose someone on your team to be the runner. Make sure you choose a different runner for each question. I'll ask the question, your group will decide on the answer, then your runner will run up here and hit your team's button. (*Demonstrate.*)

"The first person to light up their button will give me their team's answer. If the answer is correct, we'll move on to the next question. If the answer is incorrect, the second team to light up their tap light will have a chance to answer.

"Remember, runners, you might THINK you know the answer . . . but you need to have self-control and make sure your whole team agrees before you run up and press the button! Okay, if that all makes sense and you're ready to play, give me a thumbs-up. (*Pause.*) Great! Let's play.

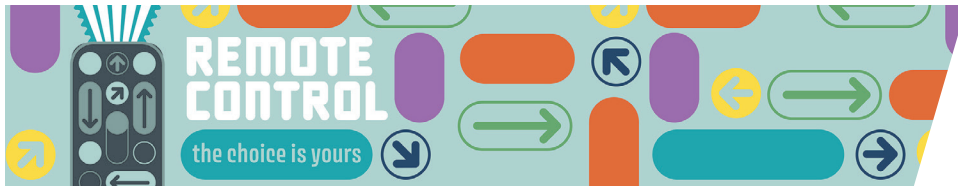
AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

"Here's the first question.

Read the questions from the printed script or cue card.

"Question 1: One of the most popular sandwiches in the world is peanut butter and . . . (*jelly*)

As each question is asked, encourage the teams to decide on the answer together then send their runner to tap their light. The first light to turn on indicates which team can give an answer. (There's no need to keep score; you can just play through all the questions for fun.)



WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

“Question 2: What is Mickey and Minnie’s last name? (*Mouse*)

“Question 3: A game where you use a bat to hit a ball and run around the bases is called . . . (*baseball*)

“Question 4: Nintendo® created video games with the characters Mario and . . . (*Luigi*)

“Question 5: At Christmas, we put presents under the Christmas . . . (*tree*)

“Question 6: Apples grow on a . . . (*tree*)

“Question 7: A small bicycle with three wheels is called a . . . (*tricycle*)

“Question 8: A frozen dessert that is often served in a cone is called . . . (*ice cream*)

AUDIO: FADE OUT MUSIC

“That was super-fun! I loved seeing you light up those buttons. Some of those questions were pretty easy, weren’t they? But you had to have a lot of self-control to talk with your teammates instead of running straight for your button. God can help us have self-control in any situation.



25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters. Worship Leaders set up the four scene backdrops. (They'll need to set up the river backdrop first, then the desert, etc.) Slides can be used instead of backdrops.

Storyteller can help with this as well. It's okay to leave the kids waiting as you set up. They'll be curious about what's coming next!

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everybody! (Hold up Bible.) I've got an amazing story to share with you today. It's about a time when Jesus showed self-control in a BIG way. This happened not long after Jesus was baptized by His cousin, John, in the Jordan River.

Move to the river scene.

AUDIO: RIVER SOUNDS

"When Jesus came out of the water, God spoke! He said . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 3:17 (NirV) and read.

"This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him.

"Jesus had a lot of work that God had sent Him to do—like teaching people, healing people, and showing God's love everywhere He went. Jesus was just getting started with this important work. But there was something He needed to do first. Right after Jesus was baptized, God's Spirit led Him into the desert."

Move to the desert scene.

AUDIO: DESERT SOUNDS

STONE TO BREAD?

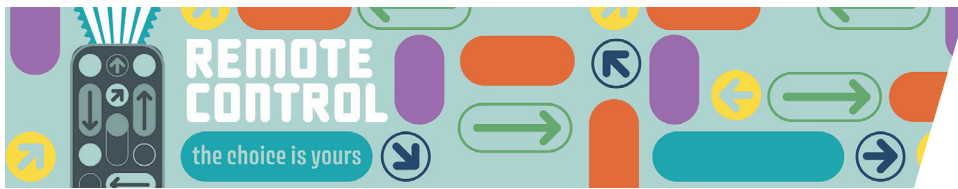
STORYTELLER: "For 40 days, Jesus spent time with God. But at the same time, God's enemy, the devil, was tempting Jesus. Jesus ate nothing for 40 days! Can you imagine how hungry He must have been? At the end of those 40 days, the devil said this to Jesus.

Open the Bible to Luke 4:3 (NirV) and read.

"If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.

Hold up the stone.

"I know this can be kind of tough for us to understand. But basically, the devil wanted Jesus to doubt God's good plan. He wanted Jesus to try to take control Himself by turning the stone into delicious bread. But Jesus wouldn't fall for that kind of trick. Jesus responded with God's truth that He knew from Scripture. He said . . .



25 MINUTES

Open the Bible to Luke 4:4 (NIRV) and read.

"It is written, 'Man must not live only on bread.'"

KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD

STORYTELLER: "Next, the devil led Jesus up to a very high place—a mountaintop.

Move to the mountain scene and step on the ladder.

AUDIO: MOUNTAIN SOUNDS

"The devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. He said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 4:6-7 (NIRV) and read.

"I will give you all their authority and glory. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.

"Uh-oh. Again, the devil was trying to pull Jesus away from God's plan. He wanted Jesus, God's Son, to worship him! But again, Jesus responded with the truth of Scripture. He said . . .

Open the Bible to Luke 4:8 (NIRV) and read.

"It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.'

"Jesus had resisted the devil again. But the devil wasn't done trying to trick Him."

THROW YOURSELF DOWN

STORYTELLER: "The devil took Jesus up to the very highest point of God's temple in Jerusalem.

Move to the temple scene, taking the ladder with you. Step on the ladder.

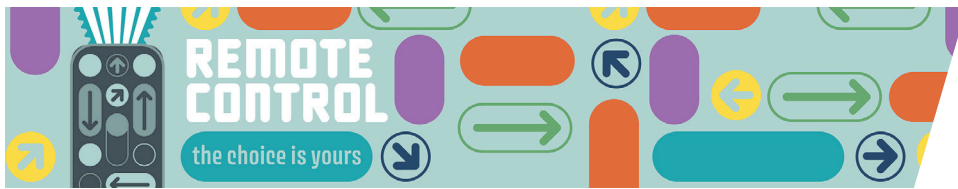
AUDIO: TEMPLE SOUNDS

"This time, the devil was especially sneaky. He tried to trick Jesus by quoting from Scripture himself!

Open the Bible to Luke 4:9-11 (NIRV) and read.

"'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down from here. It is written, 'The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won't trip over a stone.'"

"The devil was trying to get Jesus to throw Himself down from the temple, because according to Scripture, God would keep Him safe. But Jesus knew that He didn't have to do anything the devil was trying to get Him to do. He didn't need to do anything to prove He was God's Son. He responded, once again, with Scripture.



Open the Bible to Luke 4:12 (NIRV) and read.

“Jesus answered, ‘Scripture says, “Do not test the Lord your God.”’

AUDIO: FADE OUT TEMPLE SOUNDS

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “The devil left Jesus . . . until he could find a better time to test Him. God sent angels to take care of Jesus and provide everything He needed.

Move to the stage.

“Did you notice that Jesus always had a great response to whatever the devil said? Every time the devil tried to trick Jesus, Jesus was READY. Jesus knew God, and He knew the truth of God’s words in Scripture. So He was able to respond with confidence to each of the devil’s temptations.

“That’s something that we can do, too. We can be ready to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and stay in control—and that all starts when we know God and put our TRUST in God. We can stand strong because we know who God is . . . and we know the truth that we can find in God’s Word, the Bible.

“So let’s be ready!

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

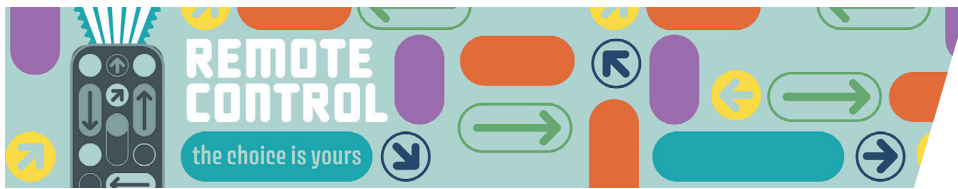
“Be ready to do the right thing.

“Let’s pray and talk to God about that now.”

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You so much for the example Jesus gave us in the desert. Jesus was ready to do the right thing! He was ready to speak truth when the devil tried to trick Him. Please help us live that way, too. Show us how we can **be ready to do the right thing**. Help us stay in control, no matter what’s going on around us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”



WEEK
ONE
JANUARY 2022

LARGE GROUP

K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: “What a story! Jesus really knew how to have self-control in a tough situation. I mean, He knew EXACTLY how to shut down the devil’s tricks! Jesus knew that God loved Him and that God was with Him. He used the truths He knew about God from Scripture to stay strong. He didn’t let the devil take Him off track.

“You and I probably won’t be tempted in the same ways Jesus was. But still, we might be tempted to make unwise choices. You might be tempted to sneak a sweet treat when you think no one will notice. You might be tempted to tell a lie to keep from getting in trouble. Or you might be tempted to say something unkind to a friend or your brother or sister.

“That’s why we need to be prepared! We can’t let those moments take us by surprise.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“We need to **be ready to do the right thing.**”

“What are some ways we can GET ready? Well, we can spend time reading the Bible. (*Hold up Bible.*) When we do, we’ll find truths about God and how we can live like Jesus. We can spend time praying and talking to God about how we feel—about the good things and the tough things in our lives. We can ask God to help us and give us the strength we need to **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice.** And we can talk to the people God has put in our lives like our parents, leaders, and teachers. We can ask them to help us choose self-control.

“God is ALWAYS there to help us stay in control. As we read in our memory verse, 2 Peter 1:3 . . .

SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE

“God’s power has given us everything we need to lead a godly life. (2 Peter 1:3a, NIV)

“You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about how God can help us **be ready to do the right thing!**”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP