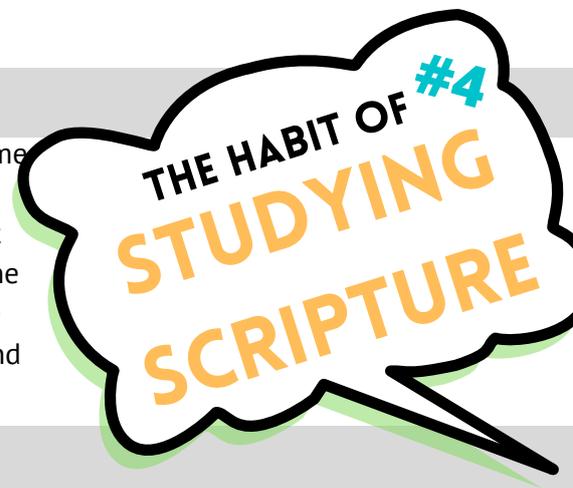


Following Jesus

PARENT CONTEXT

Right after Jesus was baptized, he spent 40 days in the desert. This period of time is essential for our salvation as it shows the human side of Jesus. When he walked this earth Jesus could be and was tempted, but unlike us he could resist all sin. He showed us that we are to lean on God's Word not man's wisdom, as he uses Scripture to respond to Satan's temptations. We see Jesus call on Scripture throughout the Gospels as he uses God's Word to teach, correct, for strength, and to show how he is the fulfillment of God's promises throughout generations.



BIBLE READING

MATTHEW 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Craft

Use the attached craft page to make your own paper watch to remind you it is time for Scripture!

ASK: How do we know if the habits we have are good?

We can look in the Bible! God wrote the Bible through His prophets for everyone to read. When we read the Bible, we get to see all of the good things Jesus did and all of the good habits he had. Jesus read the Bible too, but back then only the Old Testament had been written. Jesus would read from the Torah and the Prophets. It was still God's Word and how He spoke with His people. We are going to read a story about a time Jesus relied on God's Word to stay strong, fight against sin, and continue on toward the cross.

Read: Matthew 4:1-11

ASK: In this story Satan tried to get Jesus to sin. What did Jesus use to fight against the devil?

Scripture! When Jesus says "it is written" he is quoting parts of the Bible. When Satan tries to get Jesus to turn stones to bread or to bow down and worship him Jesus turns to God's Word to know the right answer, and for the strength to follow his Father's will.

ASK: What are the different ways we can get God's Word?

We can hear God's Word when we read our Bible, when we worship together during church services, and through Pastor and his sermon! However, even though there are many ways we can rely on God for the strength to obey Him, we still sin against Him in thought, word, and deed! That is why, even with all of the help God has given to us through the Bible, He sent Jesus to be our Savior! Jesus' death and resurrection forgives us of all of our sins, and that is what Scripture is all about.

PRAYER

Dear God, even when we try to follow You, we fail. Help us to look to God's Word for grace, love, mercy, strength, peace, and all the things we need from you. Thank You for sending Jesus to die for us so that we can be forgiven of all our sins. In Jesus' name, Amen!