

# First Family Foundations

Building a foundation of Faith for Families

## Unit 4 — Satan

### Lesson 4 — Sin is conquered by accepting God's forgiveness and submitting to His control.

**Introduction** — We parents and teachers often think we can make our children act morally by drilling them with lessons about right and wrong.

Those lessons are important, but we have to recognize that no one — not us, not our kids — can conquer sin on their own power. Only God (the Holy Spirit) living inside us can transform our nature and curtail the power that sin has over us.

#### Here's the Activity:

##### Read this story to your family.

The sun shone so hot that it made Jesus dizzy just to move. He staggered to a boulder and dropped into its shade. He'd been in the wilderness for 40 days with nothing to eat. Jesus leaned wearily against the rock. God had brought Him to this desert right after John baptized Him. Jesus knew He must stay faithful to His heavenly Father to do the work He had for Him on earth.

"Well, well, well," a voice said. "What do we have here?" It was Satan.

"You don't look so good," he mocked. "In fact, You look hungry. If You're the Son of God, prove it and tell these stones to become bread."

Jesus saw the barren valley of rocks and boulders. He was so hungry His stomach had given up rumbling. Jesus was God's Son, so He could turn the rocks into bread. But His heavenly Father had asked Him to fast. Jesus wasn't going to put His own needs ahead of obeying God! He squinted at Satan.

"It is written, 'Man doesn't live only on bread. He also lives on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Satan hid a flash of anger and forced a smile instead. "Come," he beckoned Jesus.

Suddenly they stood on the highest part of Herod's Temple looking down on the crowds. To the south, the sun sparkled off the Pool of Siloam. Jesus licked His lips. His whole body ached for water.

"If You're the Son of God, throw yourself down." Satan grinned slyly, "It is written, 'The LORD will command His angels to take care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won't trip over a stone.'"

Satan thought he was clever, quoting God's Word. He wanted Jesus to hurt himself. But Jesus loved and studied the Scriptures, so He knew Satan was using God's Word in the wrong way.

"It is also written. 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test,'" He said.

Satan frowned. Jesus wasn't falling for his lies. He'd have to offer Jesus the most tempting prize of all. He took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. Satan waved his arm, suggesting that everything on earth belonged to him and he could do whatever he wanted with it. Turning to Jesus like a salesman with a good deal, Satan said, "If You bow down and worship me, I will give You all of this."

Satan paused to let the power of his offer sink in. He wanted to convince Jesus that his lies made sense, just as he had with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. But Satan didn't understand love. Jesus wanted God's kingdom for His Father and for us, not for himself. Jesus knew that God is love and is the only One who deserves worship.

Jesus looked Satan right in the eye and said, "Get away from Me, Satan. Scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God. Serve only Him.'"

Satan snarled and angrily left. Jesus leaned back against a rock, smiling. God had helped Him stay strong.

#### Ask

Satan used lies to tempt Jesus to do wrong. What did Jesus use to protect himself?

Can you think of some people who may tempt you to do something wrong? What things or activities tempt you?

How can God's love help you stand against temptation?

#### Pray

Thank God for loving you. Ask Him to help you learn and understand