

Saying no

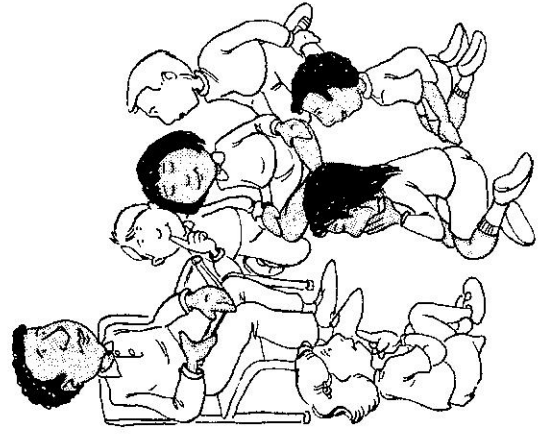


Think, what kind of person would you like to be? Pause Sign of the Cross. Let's sing. (See p. 43)

quietly by yourselves

What makes it so difficult to be good?

- People tease and torment you?
- People keep getting in your way?
- People keep touching your things, sometimes taking them?
- People call you names?



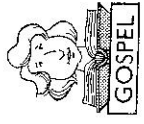
when each child has had time to think

What annoys you the most? What really makes you angry so that you lose your temper? (Catechists tell the children what makes it hard for you to be good.)

Sometimes we think, if we didn't have all these people around us, pestering us, we could be really good. All we need to do is to get away and be on our own. Do you think that would work?

This week we hear that Jesus went into the desert on his own. He didn't go there to get away from people pestering him. He went to spend time thinking and praying to God our Father. It still wasn't easy to be good.

welcome the Gospel with a song. (Gospel acclamations p. 220)



all stand (adapted from Matthew 4:1-11)

Jesus went into the desert for forty days to think and pray and during that time he didn't have anything to eat!

Jesus didn't find this easy to do.

He saw the stones which he could make into bread. But Jesus chose not to because he knew God our Father had other things for him to do.

Then Jesus climbed a mountain. He could see for miles and miles. He could see many countries and Jesus knew that he could make himself the King of all this land.

But he chose not to because he knew God our Father is the only King.

Then leaving the desert

he went to Jerusalem to the Temple.

He climbed to the top.

He knew that he didn't have to climb down again.

If he jumped from the roof

God would save him from being hurt.

He chose not to.

Jesus said "It's not right to test God's love."

Jesus knew that God loved him very much though life was not always easy for him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.

all sit (some suggestions)

Getting away from everyone doesn't make doing what's right any easier, does it?

We can still be tempted to do the wrong thing.

How many times was Jesus tempted?

What did he choose to do each time?

What was it easy for him?

What would you have done if you were Jesus?

Each day we have the choice – to do what's right or to do what's wrong.

We have to choose all on our own (though Jesus will help us).

This means that we have to become our own boss. We must learn to "boss" ourselves. It isn't easy to do. We would always rather spoil ourselves.

The choice is ours!



GOD MADE ME IN HIS IMAGE

VISUAL AIDS

- > Lumps of clay; pots or ornaments made of clay or china.
- > Picture of a potter.
- > People shape cut-outs.

SHARING

Encourage the children to talk about clay, and making things from clay. How do they feel about the things they make?
When the potter has finished making a nice pot, how does he feel?
- pleased and proud of what he has made
- he will not want it to be broken, damaged or spoiled in any way.

God is like the potter, we are like the pots he has made. God is proud of us, and doesn't want us to be damaged, hurt, broken or soiled in any way.

God hasn't just made us, he has made us to be like him, and to be happy with him. To do this, we follow Jesus in saying no to anything that would harm us.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Saying together:

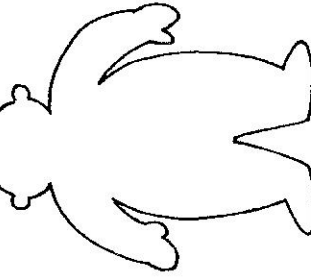
**Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour.
We do not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes
from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ our Saviour.**

A reading from the Good News given to us by Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was hungry. The devil came and said 'If you are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread.' Jesus said 'It's more important to be hungry for

God's word than to worry about bread.'
The devil then took Jesus to the top of the Temple at Jerusalem and said, 'If you are the Son of God, jump off, and God will send angels to support you.' Jesus said 'Scripture says, don't put God to the test.'
Next, taking him to a high mountain, the devil showed Jesus the whole world and said to him,

'I'll give you all this, if only you fall at my feet and worship me.' But Jesus said, 'Go away! Scripture says, worship God alone, and serve him.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



DISCUSSION

What happened to Jesus in the desert?

What were the three temptations?

- food . . . security
- power
- wealth

How, when and where are the children tempted?

ACTIVITIES

- > Have the children mime the Gospel.
- > Have the children mime ways in which they are tempted, and the ways they resist temptation.
- > Give out the cut-out shapes.
- > On the shapes have the children write or draw how they want to grow in the image of God, the kind of person that God wants them to become.