



Temptation of Jesus/Temptation

10th Confirmation Class Lesson

Supplies Needed: Journals; Handout; at least one game of Twister;

OPENING ACTIVITY: Play the "board game" Twister

(depending on size of class, you can have one game, and play teams (2v2) or if you have a larger class, you can bring two or more games of Twister and either run separate games simultaneously (1 spinner for multiple mats) or put the mats together and have one big match. Go for about 10 minutes.

Clean up/re-arrange the classroom.

OPENING PRAYER

TELL

- At first, at the start of the game, things weren't too twisted up, were they?
- But once we had two hands and a foot or so in play, then things started to get a little jumbled, a little twisted up, right?
- The same thing can happen with information.
- At first there's only one or two concepts, and that's fine, but then what happens when 5 more concepts are introduced and it all gets thrown altogether?
- That's right. Things can get twisted up.
- So we're reaching that point in class where there's just enough information to start getting tangled in it.
- So we're going to do a review to hopefully keep the info from getting tangled.
- And how we're going to do that is by, first, looking at a scripture story of Jesus.
- And then we're going to "untangle" the story by identifying the different concepts we've discussed so far in class within this specific story.
- But first, we're going to read the story out loud. (Pass out handout)

READ MARK 9:1-8; 14-29 (from The Message)

1 Then Jesus drove his point home by saying, "This isn't pie in the sky by and by. Some of you who are standing here are going to see the kingdom of God arrive in full force." 2 Six days later, three of them did see it. Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain to pray. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. 3 His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. 4 Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, and were in deep conversation with Jesus. 5 But then Peter interrupted, "Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let's build three memorials - one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah." 6 He blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing. 7 Immediately, a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and

from deep in the cloud came a voice: "This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him." 8 The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus.

14 When Jesus, Peter, James and John came back down the mountain to the other disciples, they saw a huge crowd around them, and the religion scholars were there too, cross-examining the other disciples. 15 As soon as the people in the crowd saw Jesus, admiring excitement stirred them. They ran and greeted him. 16 He asked, "What's going on? What's all the commotion?" 17 A man out of the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought my mute son, made speechless by a demon, to you. 18 Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, grinds his teeth, and goes stiff as a board. I told your disciples, hoping they could deliver him, but they couldn't." 19 Jesus said about his disciples and the Pharisees, "What a generation! No sense of God! How many times do I have to go over these things? How much longer do I have to put up with this? Bring the boy here." 20 They brought him. When the demon saw Jesus, it threw the boy into a seizure, causing him to writhe on the ground and foam at the mouth. 21 He asked the boy's father, "How long has this been going on?" 22 The father answered, "Many times it pitches him into fire or the river to do away with him. If you can do anything, do it. Have a heart and help us!" 23 Jesus said, "If? There are no 'ifs' among believers. Anything can happen." 24 No sooner were the words out of his mouth than the father cried out, "Then I believe. Help me with my doubts!" 25 Seeing that the crowd was forming fast, Jesus gave the vile spirit its marching orders: "Dumb and deaf spirit, I command you - Out of him, and stay out!" 26 Screaming, and with much thrashing about, it left. The boy was pale as a corpse, so people started saying, "He's dead." 27 But Jesus, taking his hand, raised him. The boy stood up. 28 After arriving back home, his disciples cornered Jesus and asked, "Why couldn't we throw the demon out?" 29 He answered, "There is no way to get rid of this kind of demon except by prayer."

TELL

- Now, instead of talking about the story, we're going to instead analyze the story.
- The word *analyze* simply means to "break down into small(er) pieces."
- The smaller pieces that we're going to look for are the concepts, ideas and actions that we've already read about in previous stories and talked about in previous classes.

DO a quick walk-through of THE CONCEPTS AND IDEAS on Handout

- Now, what we're going to do, is get into groups of two and then identify all the possible concepts, actions and ideas in this story that you recognize from the previous stories and lessons that we've had.
- Use today's handout and, if need be, use your notebook and look up previous scriptural stories and handouts.
- I'll give you between 10 to 15 minutes to do this. Then we'll come together as one group to combine what we see.

DO 10 to 15 minute analyzing activity

TELL

- You have 30 more seconds before time is up. Wrap-up whatever idea you're on.

DO group-sharing: Go through the concepts in order and see what each group has for each concept. Put answers on a flip-chart or whiteboard.

ASK

- 8 weeks ago, do you think you could've seen these things [point at flip chart] in this one Bible story?
- When you identify the concepts and ideas that you are familiar with, does that help the story seem less strange?
- But does this story still seem pretty strange? (oh yes)
- If you take into consideration what you've just shown to yourself what you've learned in 8 weeks, do you think in another 8 weeks, some of the strange things in this story might seem less strange then? (it's certainly a possibility!)
- At least it's something to aim for, right?

SNACK

TELL

- Some things we would not have picked up on with our analyzing due to not having talked about it yet:
- **Light** – Jesus and the rest of us, we're like light bulbs. We're made to shine, but we can't shine on our own. We need electricity. We need to be put in a socket. God is the electricity. Prayer is the conduit/socket that sets us up to shine.
- **Insight** – One useful thing about God's light is that it helps us to see. Those on the mountain top are all lit up and get to see something they don't normally get to see (like, Moses and Elijah). When we pay attention to God first, then we'll see things that on our own we wouldn't have seen.
- **Why Moses and Elijah?:** Moses went up on a mountain top, spoke with God and his face shone so brightly that he had to wear a veil when he came down because people couldn't look at him. Elijah never died, but was instead taken up in a chariot of fire. These two prophets are fine examples of how God works: With light and infinite life.
- **Summary** – One way to think about this Transfiguration Story is to think about it as the opposite of "All Hell Breaks Loose." When we pay attention to God and therefore shine the way we were made to shine, with God's glory, then all of heaven breaks loose instead.

REVIEW the "Challenge of the Week": What are some things that you have trouble saying "no" to even though you think it'd be better for you if you said no to the temptation (i.e. what temptations do you give in to but later on you are then upset with yourself for giving in to it?)

DISCUSS upcoming events and schedule (if need be)

CHALLENGE of the Week: With your mentor or parent or one of us teachers, sit down and read **Mark 5:21-43, Luke 24:13-35, or John 5:1-15** . Look specifically for the concepts we've been discussing.

CLOSING PRAYER – ask for prayer requests and give time during prayer for students to pray.