

Bible Story 28: JESUS' BAPTISM AND TEMPTATION

SCRIPTURE: Mathew 3:1-6,13-17; 4:1-11;
Mark 1:9-13; Hebrews 2:18; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

MEMORY VERSE: "Because he himself (Jesus) suffered when he was tempted,
he is able to help those who are being tempted." Hebrews 2:18 NIV

BIBLE STORY:

When Jesus was thirty years old, He went to the River Jordan for John the Baptist to baptize Him. John the Baptist did baptize Jesus. As Jesus came out of the water, the Spirit of God came down in the form of a dove. God spoke from heaven saying, "*You are my dear Son in whom I am well pleased.*"

Then Jesus left and went to the desert. He stayed there praying for forty days and nights, without eating. He was very hungry. Satan came and tempted Jesus three times.

(Temptation is a desire to do something wrong which is against teachings in the Scriptures, the Bible.)

1st Satan said to Jesus, "***If you are the Son of God, turn these rocks into bread.***"
Jesus replied, "***The Holy Scripture says people do not live only by bread, but lives on God's Word.***"

2nd Satan took Jesus to the highest part of the Temple and said, "***If you are the Son of God, jump off the top of the Temple. The Word of God says that God will protect you.***"
Jesus replied, "***The Holy Scripture says not to test God.***"

3rd Satan took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Jesus all nations of the world. Then Satan said, "***If you bow down and worship me, I will give all of this to you.***"
Jesus replied, "***Leave, Satan! The Holy Scripture says to worship and serve only God.***"

Satan left. Then Jesus returned to Galilee.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What do you like about the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?