



Opening Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for being with our family as we begin this Lenten journey. We love you and want to learn more about you. Amen.

Theme: Knowing when to say “yes” and when to say “no”

Gospel Listening: Matthew 4:1-11 One family member reads the Gospel while everyone else listens quietly.

Making Connections

Reader: In today’s Gospel, the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert for forty days where he was tempted three times by the devil. This passage teaches us something very important - how to say “yes” to God and “no” to the devil.

The first temptation was for Jesus to change stones into bread. Jesus refused to do what the devil suggested. The second time the devil tried to trick Jesus by telling him to jump off a high building so that God would send angels to save him. Again, Jesus refused to do this. In the third temptation, the devil promised Jesus all the kingdoms of the earth if he would worship him. Jesus refused the devil one more time and showed us how to say “yes” to God. Jesus said, “The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve” (Matthew 4:10). After this, the devil left him.

Family Sharing Time

Use the questions below to guide your family discussion.

Preschool children: When is it good to say “yes” to somebody? When is it good to say “no”? Whom did Jesus say “no” to? Whom did Jesus say “yes” to?

Primary-grade children: When is it easy to say “yes” to somebody? Why? When is it hard to say “no” to somebody? Why? Tell of a time when you said “no” when you should have said “yes.” When have you said “yes” when you should have said “no”? Discuss.

Preteens: When is it easy to say “yes” to friends and family? Is it ever hard for you to say “yes” to God? When and why? When is it hard to say “no” to your friends and family? Why is it important to think and pray before making a decision? Discuss.

Activity

Materials needed: poster board, pencils, markers, glue, scissors, magazines

On a poster board, make a “yes” column and a “no” column. In the “yes” column, write, draw, or glue pictures of things Jesus wants us to say “yes” to. In the “no” column, write, draw, or glue pictures of things Jesus wants us to say “no” to. Display the poster.

Suggestion of the Week: Let your poster *grow* this week. Leave room on the poster so you can add times when family members said “yes” to Jesus and “no” to temptations.

Praying Together

Gather around a prayer table with a Bible, crucifix, candle, and the poster.

All: Loving God, thank you for all the goodness you bring to us each day. Help us to be like Jesus and say “no” to things that are wrong and “yes” to things that are good. Amen.

Conclude by praying the **Our Father** and share a sign of peace with each other.