

GOD ALWAYS DOES WHAT IS RIGHT

FOUNDATION: GOD IS JUST - GOD GIVES MERCY

BIG TRUTH: GOD ALWAYS DOES WHAT IS RIGHT

Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:30; Jeremiah 9:24; Daniel 4:37; Matthew 5:48; Revelation 15:3

BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 32:4B

"His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice."

BIG IDEAS

- God is unchanging and always good.
- God never sins or commits any wrong.
- God's ways are always right and best for us.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 4:1-11

The temptation of Jesus came at a time after He had been in the wilderness and had fasted for forty days. He was alone, tired and hungry when Satan tempted Him. Jesus resisted Satan's temptations. He chose not to believe Satan's lies and instead, He obeyed His Father. Jesus' temptation shows that God always does what is right and good. Jesus never sinned while He lived on the earth, even when faced with great temptation. God never sins. He always does what is right and all that He does is good.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS JUST - GOD GIVES MERCY

Every decision that God makes is perfect and completely just. He is a good judge who cannot and does not allow evil to go unpunished. This means that God must punish injustice. The problem that we all face is that we are unjust sinners. We deserve justice. God's justice is why we need a substitute, and He sent Jesus to become that substitute. Instead of justice, those who place their faith in Jesus receive mercy.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know:

- God's justice means He always does what is right
- God's mercy means that he does not give us what we deserve



Every child should feel:

- Thankful because God shows us mercy when we do not do what is right



Every child should be able to:

- Think about the decisions they have to make in light of what God says is right and wrong
- Obey God because He always does what is right



Every child should want to:

- To trust God and to obey Him because He is just

FAMILY DEVOTION: GOD DOES WHAT IS RIGHT

God has never sinned, nor has He ever done anything wrong. He is unlike men; we make wrong choices and sin daily. Even though we are not perfect like God and we don't always do what is right like God does, our goal should be to strive to be like God. We should want to do what is right by obeying God, even when it's hard.

BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 32:4B*"His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice."***God is perfect.**

- All that God does is perfect, even the things we don't understand.
- God is perfect in all His ways because He is the only perfect being. No one else is like God; He alone is perfect.
- His timing, when He chooses to do things, is perfect.
- The way He works in people's lives and in the world is perfect.
- God is all-knowing and all-powerful; therefore, everything He does is perfect.

God is just; everything that He does is right.

- All God does is right and just.
- Because God is all-knowing, He is the perfect judge. He knows all the details of every situation; therefore, He, alone, knows best how to work in situations.
- He knows everything which means He can perfectly judge all things.
- He understands everyone's heart and He knows the motives of every person. He understands every action of every person, so He is the best judge.
- His work in the world is perfect because of His divine attributes of omniscience and omnipotence.

God is faithful and upright.

- God is always faithful because He is perfect. He is never unfaithful.
- He does not break His promises. His word is true and can be trusted always.
- He does not sin in anyway ever. He is always without sin and He faces every situation without sinning.
- All that God is and does is right and good.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 4:1-11*The Temptation of Jesus*

Supporting Scripture: Hebrews 2:18; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 8:28

Teacher Introduction:

In a world that is full of people and things that are increasingly not good, we can trust in the knowledge that God is always good and everything He does is always right. This truth is so clearly displayed in the temptation of God's Son, Jesus Christ. It was not a surprise to God that Jesus was tempted. The Holy Spirit carried Jesus into the wilderness where Jesus fasted for forty days. At the end of the forty days, Satan appeared to Jesus with a plan to stop Jesus' ministry on the earth. Satan tempted Jesus when Jesus was tired and hungry, yet Jesus never gave in. Every temptation that Satan offered Jesus, He refused, and chose instead to trust in the words of His Father.

God always does what is right. He does not make mistakes or choose to do things that are wrong or sinful. Jesus clearly shows this when He is in the wilderness facing great temptation by Satan. He resists the temptation of Satan, showing every believer that we, too, can resist temptation in the same way, by clinging to the Word of our Heavenly Father.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the narrative: *The Temptation of Jesus*. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Matthew 4:1-11 and teach the narrative: *The Temptation of Jesus*. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson, questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the narrative: *The Temptation of Jesus*.

Opening Illustration:

Bring in two empty boxes. One box should be labeled "MAN" and the other box should be labeled "GOD". On blank pieces of paper, write different actions or attitudes that are true of men and then some that are true of God. Some examples are: It is true of men to lie, cheat, be unkind, change their minds, not obey, etc. It is true of God to never lie, never cheat, be always kind, never change, always do good, never sin, etc. Mix the pieces of paper together and then help the children separate them into the correct boxes. Read each action and help them determine if it's an attitude true of God or man, then they should place it in the appropriate box. Take out the pieces and mix them up again so the children can play again with less guidance from you. Once they finish, lead them in a discussion about how God always does what is right by reading the pieces of paper from the "GOD" box.

- These are all things that are true of God. Sometimes they might be true of men. For example, men can be kind, but they are not always kind.
- God is always good because He is perfect. He always does what is right.

BIG IDEA: GOD IS UNCHANGING AND ALWAYS GOOD.**God does not change. He is always the same.**

- God is always God and He does not change. He is eternal and He remains the same.
- He is good. He never changes or does bad things.
- He is always omniscient, or all-knowing and He is all-powerful, or omnipotent.
- God's essence and character do not change. He is unlike man in that He does not change who He is.



Bring in a very hard rock, a plastic egg, a hamburger bun, and an empty ice cream cone. Let the children take turns hitting each item with the small hammer. The rock will be the only item that doesn't change. Tell them the rock is like God, who never changes and is always good.

God is always the one true God.

- God has always existed and will always exist.
- He doesn't change who He is when situations change or circumstances change. He remains the same always.
- God remains the same when all other things and people change.
- God is always loving and kind. He never stops being loving or kind or chooses to be unkind.
- God is always patient and long-suffering. Every character trait of God stays the same. He does not change when situations change or people disobey Him.

God is always good.

- God does all things according to His plan and the things He does are good.¹
- God does good things, even if we don't see how they are good.
- God never stops being good. Even when the world turns away from Him and acts wickedly in disobedience, God still loves them and is still good.

When everything else changes, who never changes? (God never changes. He remains the same always.)
Who is always good no matter the situation? (God is always good and everything He does is good.)

1. Matthew 4:1: Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to be tempted. God does not tempt His people, but He allows them to face temptation to increase and strengthen their faith.

BIG IDEA: GOD NEVER SINS OR COMMITS ANY WRONG.

Jesus faced great temptation when He was in the wilderness, but He never sinned.

- Jesus did not sin or give in to temptation when He was in the wilderness.
- Jesus did what was right; He resisted Satan and didn't believe Satan's lies.
- Jesus experienced temptation like we face temptation, but He did not sin.²
- He did what was right.



Sing the song "Be Careful Little Eyes What You See" with the children. Lead the children in a discussion about how we are tempted by the things we see, hear, feel, and love.

God is without sin because He has never sinned, does not sin and will not sin.

- Even when Jesus was faced with great temptation, in one of His weakest moments physically, He did not sin.
- God is perfect and without sin, even when faced with the temptation to sin.
- Jesus did what was right when Satan tempted Him and He did what was right throughout His life on earth.
- Jesus never sinned.

God commits no wrong. Nothing He does is wrong.

- It was God's will for Jesus to go to the wilderness. God had a plan to show people how strong they could be using His power.³
- God's plan for Jesus to go to the wilderness was a good plan because God doesn't do wrong.
- Everything God does is right and good. He, alone, knows what is best for all people and He does what is best for all people.

When Jesus faced temptation in the wilderness did He sin? (No, Jesus never sinned.)

2. Hebrews 2:18: Jesus faced every kind of temptation that we face in our own lives, yet He never sinned. He never gave into the temptations. His resistance to temptation shows us how we can be strong in the power of God.

3. 1 Corinthians 10:13: God allows His people to be tempted, though He never causes temptation for His people. Though God allows His people to be tempted, they are never tempted with more than they can bear or in such a way that they cannot resist it.

BIG IDEA: GOD'S WAYS ARE ALWAYS RIGHT AND BEST FOR US.

Everything that God does in our lives is right and good.⁴

- Jesus' temptation was difficult because He had just fasted for forty days.
- Even though He was weak physically, He was strengthened by the Word of God and He didn't give into the temptation to sin.
- God does what is right always.
- The temptation of Jesus shows us the power of God over sin. We can be strong when we use the power of God to resist temptation.
- Jesus resisted temptation using His Father's power.
- Jesus used God's Word to resist Satan and Satan's lies.



Create an obstacle course in the classroom. Let the children take turns being blindfolded and having you guide them with oral directions through the obstacle course. Lead them in a discussion about how God leads us and all that He does for us is good because He can see things that we can't and He doesn't do wrong.

God's plans are what is best for His people.

- Jesus' temptation shows how we can use God's Word to resist Satan's lies.
- It teaches the world how mighty and powerful God is and how strong we are in God.
- God's work in our lives is for our good, even the most difficult things.
- God uses our circumstances to reveal Himself to us and to help us strengthen our faith.

We can trust everything that God does because it is always right and good.

- Even the most difficult situations or circumstances are right and good if they are from God.
- Jesus was weak from fasting and it might not have seemed like the best time for Him to face temptation, but God used the situation to show the world that we can all be strong in God.
- All that God does in our own lives is good and right. We may not understand every situation, but we can trust that God is always doing what is right and good for us.

Why can we trust everything that God does? (All that He does is good and right. He does not do wrong.)

4. Romans 8:28: God works all situations out for the good of His people and for His glory. Even the most difficult things are for our good when they are from the Lord and not because of our own sin. Even when we sin, God can use our situation and our repentant hearts for our good and His glory.

HOOKS

**God Is Unchanging And Always Good**

Give each child a small pebble, a piece of paper, and a cotton ball. Ask the child to squeeze, rip, and crush each object with their hands. (The only object that they shouldn't be able to manipulate is the pebble.) Lead them in a discussion about how God is unchanging and always good.



- The only item you couldn't change was the pebble. It stayed the same no matter how hard you tried to change it.
- The other items did change or come apart.
- The pebble is like God because God never changes and is always good.
- The pebble didn't change either.

**God Always Does What Is Right**

Bring in some popped popcorn and a full water bottle. Set the water bottle on a table and give each child a small bowl of popcorn. Tell them to use the popcorn to knock down the water bottle. (They won't be able to knock down the water bottle with the popcorn.) Tell them the water bottle is God's Word and the popcorn is temptation. Lead them in a discussion about how Jesus resisted temptation using God's Word.



- Jesus didn't sin when He was tempted by Satan.
- He resisted the temptation by using God's Word.
- We can resist temptation also when we use God's Word.
- This is another reason why it is so important for us to have God's Word in our hearts.

God's Ways Are Best For Us

Bring in some treat or baked good for the children. Set it on a table on one side of the room. Next set up two different paths to the treat. One path should be easy and quick. The other should have some obstacles in it. Label the easy path as the "World" and the other path as "God's Way". Let the children take turns going through each path and when they are finished, they can eat the special treat. Lead them in a discussion about how God's ways are best for us.

- Which path to the treat was harder? (The path with the obstacles.)
- Sometimes God's ways may seem harder or not easy, but His ways are always best for us. He uses hard things to teach us about Him.