

Year C - First Sunday of Lent

Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.



When Jesus returned from the Jordan River, the power of the Holy Spirit was with him, and the Spirit led him into the desert. For forty days Jesus was tested by the devil, and during that time he went without eating. When it was all over, he was hungry.

The devil said to Jesus, "If you are God's Son, tell this stone to turn into bread."

Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say, 'No one can live only on food.'"

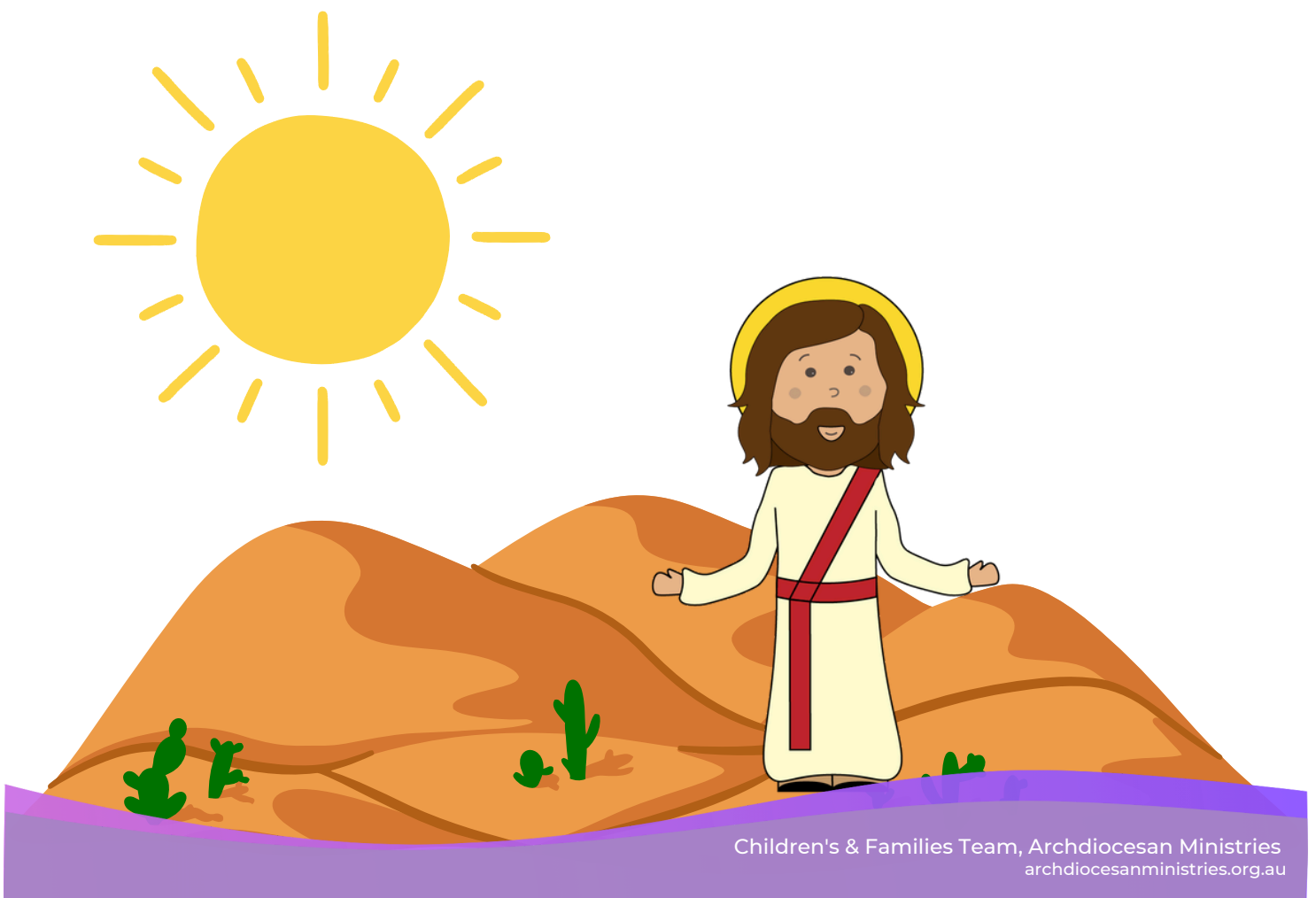
Then the devil led Jesus up to a high place and quickly showed him all the nations on earth. The devil said, "I will give all this power and glory to you. It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. Just worship me, and you can have it all."

Jesus answered, "The Scriptures say: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him!'"

Finally, the devil took Jesus to Jerusalem and had him stand on top of the temple. The devil said, "If you are God's Son, jump off. The Scriptures say: 'God will tell his angels to take care of you. They will catch you in their arms, and you will not hurt your feet on the stones.'"

Jesus answered, "The Scriptures also say, 'Don't try to test the Lord your God!'"

After the devil had finished testing Jesus in every way possible, he left him for a while.



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You couldn't fool Jesus and you can't fool me!



Message

- In the gospel, the devil tries to trick Jesus into following his ideas instead of following God's ways.
- But Jesus is strong.
 - Jesus knows that God the Father loves him!
 - Jesus knows that he is God's son and that he belongs to God.
 - Jesus knows all about God's ways because he has learned them from the time he was a small boy.
 - Jesus has practiced following in God's ways and this has made him strong.
 - Jesus has the strength to say 'no!' when he is tempted to make choices that don't follow in God's ways.
- We can be strong like Jesus too!
 - Jesus told us that God loves us.
 - Jesus showed us that we belong to God - we are God's children.
 - Jesus taught us all about God's ways so we can learn to follow him.
 - Jesus gave us families and friends to help us practice following God so that we make strong choices too.

Discussion questions

- When are some of the times that it is hard to choose to follow God's ways?
- What are some of the things that tempt us?
- What are some of the ways we can practice following God so that we can make strong choices like Jesus?

