**Key Passages**

**Bible Drill Devotions**

***Green Cycle***

**4. THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS Matthew 4:1-11**

**Key Verse/s** *CSB: Verse 4* “He answered, “It is written:…”

*Verse 7 “*Jesus told him, “It is also written:…”

*Verse 10* “Then Jesus told him, “Go away,Satan! For it is

written:…”

**Why Is This Key Passage Important?** Most all of the temptations that will come our way can be compared to the three temptations that Satan put Jesus through in this Key Passage. This Key Passage also shows us the BEST way to respond to the temptations that the Devil uses.

**Lesson**

Notice that each time Jesus was tempted by Satan, He quoted scripture from the Bible to back Satan down. In Bible Drill you are learning scripture that will help you when Satan tempts you. Most importantly, it looks like Satan cannot win over God’s word. Just like Jesus, you want to be able to say to the devil, when he tempts you to do something wrong, “The Scriptures say…” Jesus set the example for us.

When the devil tempted Jesus, Jesus could have said, “I say…” rather than “It is written…” He certainly had the power to say that; but instead He came back with the answer, “It is written …” Jesus was showing us what we should do when the devil tempts us. Do not say to the devil, “I tell you to leave me alone,” but use God’s words. To answer the devil with God’s words we must know the scripture. We are learning a lot of the scriptures we will need in Bible Drill.

Let’s imagine you are with a group of children playing outside after a fellowship meal at the church. Your mom or dad looks out the door of the fellowship hall and says, “Hey, come in and help clean up.” The devil tempts you by causing you to think to yourself: “Yeah, mom/dad asked me to come into the church and help clean up after the fellowship, but they will understand that I am having fun with my friends.”

Next to come to your mind is the verse, ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ The devil cannot do anything now. You have just used God’s Words to come back at the devil and he cannot talk back to God. If you had tried to use your own words, the devil might have gotten into a discussion back and forth with you to justify your staying outside. Because you used God’s words, the devil couldn’t argue, and you are pleased with yourself. You go inside and help.

The devil may say to you: “Your coach, cheerleader sponsor, gymnastic teacher, hunting buddy, or that good movie kept you up late on Saturday. Those are good reasons for not going to church on Sunday.” Your answer to those temptations should be: “The Scriptures say: ‘Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.’”

Another important lesson to learn from this Key Passage concerns where the “Temptation of Jesus” comes in the Bible. There is an important reason why it comes after what happens in chapter three rather than before.

In Chapter 3 of Matthew, Jesus is baptized. Then in Matthew 4, Jesus is tempted.

Here is the reason for that order of events. When you consider what most people would do, chapters 3 and 4 would be swapped. People think they have to get everything going just right, and get all the sin out of their life before they are “good enough” to ask God to save them.

You might think, and you will meet people who think that a person has to clean up his life and make it “good” and acceptable to God before he can join the church and be baptized.

By Jesus’ example we know that is not the way to do it. The correct way is – make the decision to get God on your side and then withstand the devil.

Finish this Key Passage devotion with a discussion of the three temptations that Jesus withstood.

1. There is a “basic need” temptation – food. Jesus let us know that even a basic need of life isn’t more important than following God. Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 8:2-3 in His answer about food, “Man does not live by bread alone.”
2. There is the “relationship” temptation. This has to do with who do you trust (temple temptation). The devil even quoted scripture in this temptation. He quoted Psalm 91:11-12 in trying to convince Jesus that God will save Him from falling to His death. Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:16, “don’t try to make God prove that he can help you.”
3. There is the temptation for “power.” How many people have had their lives destroyed because they wanted power or popularity (the mountain top temptation)? Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy 6:13 when the devil tempted Him with power. Jesus said, “Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him.”