

## 28.14 Jesus Is Tempted (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-13)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- rounded stones that look like dinner rolls
- calendar by which students can count forty days

**Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:** Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *wilderness*: a desolate place where no humans are
- *temptation* or *being tempted*: the inward desire to do wrong
- *to fast*: to go without food. Different kinds of fasts might include a juice fast in which a person drinks water and juice but doesn’t eat food. The fast in our story is a total fast from food or juice ✓although water was probably drunk.
- *Satan*: the devil who tries to persuade people to sin and not obey God

### Scripture: (ESV)

Matthew 4:1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But he answered, “It is written, “‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple 6 and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

7 Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

10 Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”

11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

Mark 1:12 The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Luke 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. 3 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

4 And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’”

5 And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, 6 and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. 7 If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

8 And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ““You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.””

9 And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10 for it is written, ““He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,” 11 and ““On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.””

12 And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

13 And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

### **Introduction/Review:**

There is such a person as the devil. He is known by several names: Lucifer, Satan, Prince of Darkness, the Tempter, the Deceiver, the god of this world, and more. He does not look like the typical cartoon figure we often see to represent him—a red horned and barbed-tailed creature that’s kind of cute. The Bible states he is an angel of light. He knows a lot but is not all-knowing; he is very powerful but not all-powerful. God, on the other hand, *is* all-knowing and all-powerful. He is definitely able to win over Satan. Today’s story gives us a glimpse into that fact.

Jesus had just been baptized. What had happened as He came up out of the water? [The heavens opened, the Spirit in dove form came to rest on Him, the voice of God from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”] What a moment of triumph and blessing! ✓I wonder how that experience helped Jesus get through the terrible next forty days He was to endure.

### **Story:**

Immediately after His baptism, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit “into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matthew 4:1). Someone might wonder why God, the Holy Spirit, led the perfect man, Jesus, to be tempted by Satan. The Bible states that Jesus was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). This means that when we are tempted by the devil (and we will be), we can know that Jesus, too, went through temptation but did not sin. Therefore, we can pray when we are tempted to do wrong, and Jesus will help us get past the temptation without sinning (Hebrews 4:16). If we know Jesus Christ as our Saviour, He will make a way for us to escape the temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Let’s get on with the story of how Jesus was tempted.

### ***Fasting***

The time: forty days and nights. The place: the wilderness with only wild animals, no people. The food: none. What did I just say about the food? [None.] For how long? [Forty days and nights.]

This is a miracle—to go without eating forty days and nights. Moses and Elijah experienced this miracle. Some people might say they will go without food for forty *days* but eat at night. Is that a true forty-day fast? [No.] Jesus’ fast was “forty days and forty nights” (Matthew 4:1).

✓During that whole forty days Satan was tempting Jesus (Mark 1:13). ✓Maybe the devil was saying, “Did You hear that wild animal near? Aren’t You afraid?” Or “That sun sure is hot on Your head. Doesn’t Your Father care about You?” The Bible doesn’t record just what Satan said during those forty days, but it does tell us how the temptation ended.

### ***First Temptation***

Jesus was hungry! Can you imagine it? ✓Maybe every round rock looked like a dinner roll. Jesus had created all things in the beginning. No doubt He could have created a piece of bread, even from a rock [show the rocks you have brought], but He didn’t. Satan, however, came to tempt Jesus to do that exact little, easy bit of creation. He said, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” Oh, Satan was even tempting Jesus to show He was God by this easy act of creation.

John Baptist had just recently said that God could out of stones raise up living children to Abraham. Jesus, as God, could certainly make stones into non-living bread. So, did Jesus say, “Okay, I’ll just show you what I can do”? No! That would have been to give in to the wicked one—to yield to the temptation. It would have been sin! When we yield to temptation, we sin.\*

Jesus answered Satan with a Bible verse: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Deuteronomy 8:3).

Do we need bread/food in order to live? Yes, but we also need to live for God. In order to live a life with God, we need to consume God’s Word, not by eating the pages but by reading it and absorbing it into our lives.

What a good answer Jesus gave Satan!

### ***Second Temptation***

Satan was only just beginning this temptation in earnest. He took Jesus to the city of Jerusalem and set him on the very top of the temple. ✓Bible scholars state that this height was about 120 cubits. Translate that into feet, and you have about 180 feet. If we compare that height to a building and each story would be ten feet, then our building would be close to eighteen stories tall.

Somehow the devil took Jesus to that place on the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down.” This time he added a little Scripture himself, saying, “For it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone’” (Psalm 91:11, 12).

Oh, what a deceiver, appealing to God’s Word and to Jesus’ knowledge that He is God!

Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test’” (Deuteronomy 6:16). We, too, should not test God in this kind of foolish way. If I don’t know how to swim and jump into the ocean, believing God will save me, will I drown? Probably. God might choose to rescue me, but it’s foolish to say God will rescue me just because I say I believe He will. When someone dares you to do something foolish, remember not to put God to the test.

### ***Third Temptation***

One more temptation came from Satan. This one proves what a liar he is. Somehow (I told you the devil is powerful) he took Jesus to a very high mountain and ✓in one second\*\* showed him all the great kingdoms of the world—✓beautiful buildings, rich clothing, gold and silver, all the people, you name it. “I will give all of these to you if you will fall down and worship me,” declared Satan.

What!? God worship Satan?! Of all his bold impudence this was Satan’s worst. Unthinkable! Disgusting!

Our Lord Jesus said, “Be gone; get out of here, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve’” (Deuteronomy 6:13).

Do *you* worship things or people that are not God? Think about it. Do you love video games more than God? What occupies most of your time? Then that is a god but not the true God. Do you think about some superhero and want to be like him? He is not God. In fact, he is not real. Oh, worship the one true God.

Finally, the devil left Jesus. His temptation was no doubt excruciating. Jesus must have been totally exhausted. Thankfully, angels came and ministered to Him.

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\*“Christ yielded not to the temptation . . . *First*, Because he would not do what Satan bade him do. . . . Note, we must not do anything that looks like *giving place to the devil*. Miracles were wrought for the confirming of faith, and the devil had no faith to be confirmed, and therefore he would not do it *for him*. . . . *Secondly*, He wrought miracles for the ratification of his doctrine, and therefore till he began to *preach* he would not begin to

work miracles. *Thirdly*, He would not work miracles *for himself* and his own supply, lest he should seem impatient of *hunger*, whereas he came not to *please himself*, but to *suffer grief*, and that grief among others. . . . *Fourthly*, He would reserve the proof of his being the Son of God for hereafter, and would rather be upbraided by Satan with being weak, and not able to do it, than be persuaded by Satan to do that which it was fit for him to do. . . . *Fifthly*, He would not do any thing that looked like distrust of his Father, or *acting separately* from him, or anything disagreeable to his present state” (Matthew Henry in Online Bible.).

\*\*The Jewish doctors said *a moment of time* is .056 or 1/88 part of an hour. “[I]t was a very short space of time indeed” (Online Bible). Therefore, a *moment* of time was roughly a second of time. [Based on the above numbers, my calculations, however, are closer to 40 seconds up to 3+ minutes, still a short amount of time. *ma*]

**Lessons from this lesson:** (from John Gill and Matthew Henry in Online Bible)

- After great honours put upon us, we must expect something that is humbling; as Paul has a messenger of Satan sent to buffet him, after he had been in the third heavens.
- God usually prepares his people for temptation before he calls them to it; he *gives strength according to the day*, and, before a sharp trial, gives more than ordinary comfort.
- Those who are reduced to straits need to double their guard; it is better to starve to death, than live and thrive by sin.
- The great thing Satan aims at in tempting good people is to overthrow their relation to God as a Father, and so to cut off their dependence on him, their duty to him, and their communion with him. The good Spirit, as the Comforter of the brethren, witnesses that they are the children of God; the evil spirit, as the accuser of the brethren, does all he can to shake that testimony.
- If the best friend we have in the world suggests to us, “Go, serve other gods,” he must not be heard. Some temptations have their wickedness written in their forehead, they are open beforehand; they must be rejected.
- “Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7). “Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

### Activities:

- Play dough: stones or dinner rolls; a mountain; a wild animal; temple
- Snack: Cut the verses found below apart and fold each one. Cut a slit into the top of bread rolls, one roll per student. Slip the folded verse into the slit. Inform the students of the verse before they eat the roll. (Idea from *Group*)
- Say, “N-O, no,” to bad suggestions; nod the head for good ones:
  1. Cry for no reason. Cry because you really are hurt.
  2. Eat politely. Eat sloppily with bad manners.
  3. Fuss to get a toy at the store. Smile even if no one buys you a toy.
  4. Obey the first time you are told. Refuse to do what you're told.
  5. Talk out loud in church. Whisper quietly if you need something in church.
  6. Pretend not to listen when told to get ready for bed. Go right away to put on pajamas when told to go to bed.
  7. Listen quietly to the story. Act up because your friend said to.
  8. Be mean to your friend. Play kindly.
- Print and prepare take-home booklets for this story. The online source for ordering or downloading for \$12.99 is <https://www.carsondellosa.com/products/0499--New-Testament-Take-Home-Bible-Stories-Resource-Book-0499#/?book%20media%20type=f389e45b92884d48844baaf09d49e3c5>. The book is less expensive at other sites, but those sites do not offer the ebook.

- Sing “Temptation of Jesus” found below (when copyright permission is granted).
- Sing “Yield Not to Temptation” found in many hymnals.
- Use visual from Ephesians 6 found below for the armor of God, reviewing how we may stand against the devil.
- Sing “Soldiers of Christ, Arise” found in many hymnals.
- Review story by letting students place flannelgraph figures for this story (if you have them)” (Point up.)
- To the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”  
 “No, no, no” I say! (Shake head “no.”)  
 “You just go away!” (Point away.)  
 “I will listen to God’s Word.” (Cup hands behind ears.)  
 “I’ll follow God each day.” (Point up.)
- Review questions: (Game: Bring to class ten white stones that look like dinner rolls or actual rolls and two baskets. For each correct answer a student places a stone or roll into the basket.)
  1. Who led Jesus into the place of his temptation? [The Holy Spirit.]
  2. Where was Jesus led by the Spirit? [The wilderness.]
  3. How long did Jesus fast? [Forty days and forty nights.]
  4. Jesus was hungry. What was Satan’s first temptation? [“Turn these stones into bread.”]
  5. What was Jesus’ answer? [“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’”]
  6. Fill in the blanks.”The devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, \_\_\_\_\_.” [Throw yourself down.]
  7. How did Satan say Jesus would be saved if he jumped off the Temple? [God’s angels would bear Him up.]
  8. What was Jesus’ answer? [“Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”]
  9. When Satan took Jesus to the high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world, he tempted Jesus to do what? [Bow down and worship him so that He could receive all these kingdoms.]
  10. How did Jesus answer Satan? [“Get out of here.”]

### **Handwork:**

- Solve the puzzle found at the end of this lesson. Answer: Worship the Lord your God

### **Memory Verse[s]:**

- James 4:7—“Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
- John 1:1-14:
  - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
  - 2 He was in the beginning with God.
  - 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
  - 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
  - 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
  - 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
  - 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
  - 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
  - 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
  - 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
  - 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
  - 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who

believe in His name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

wilderness

temptation

to fast

Cut the following verses apart and fold each one. Cut a slit into the top of bread rolls, one roll per student. Slip the folded verse into the slit. Inform the students of the verse before they eat the roll. (Idea from *Group*)

Matthew 4:4 & Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

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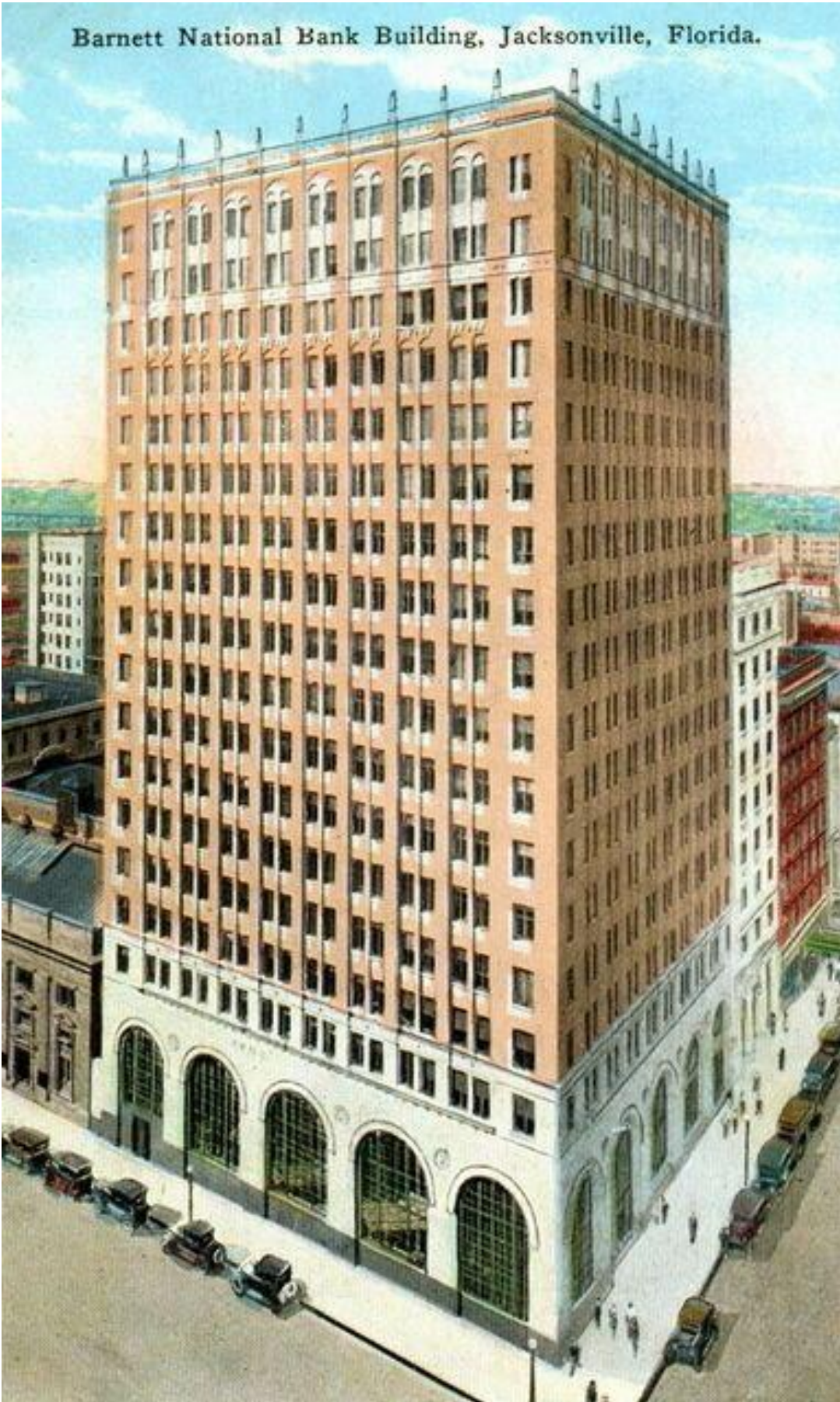
# Month One

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	30					

# Month Two

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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Barnett National Bank Building, Jacksonville, Florida.



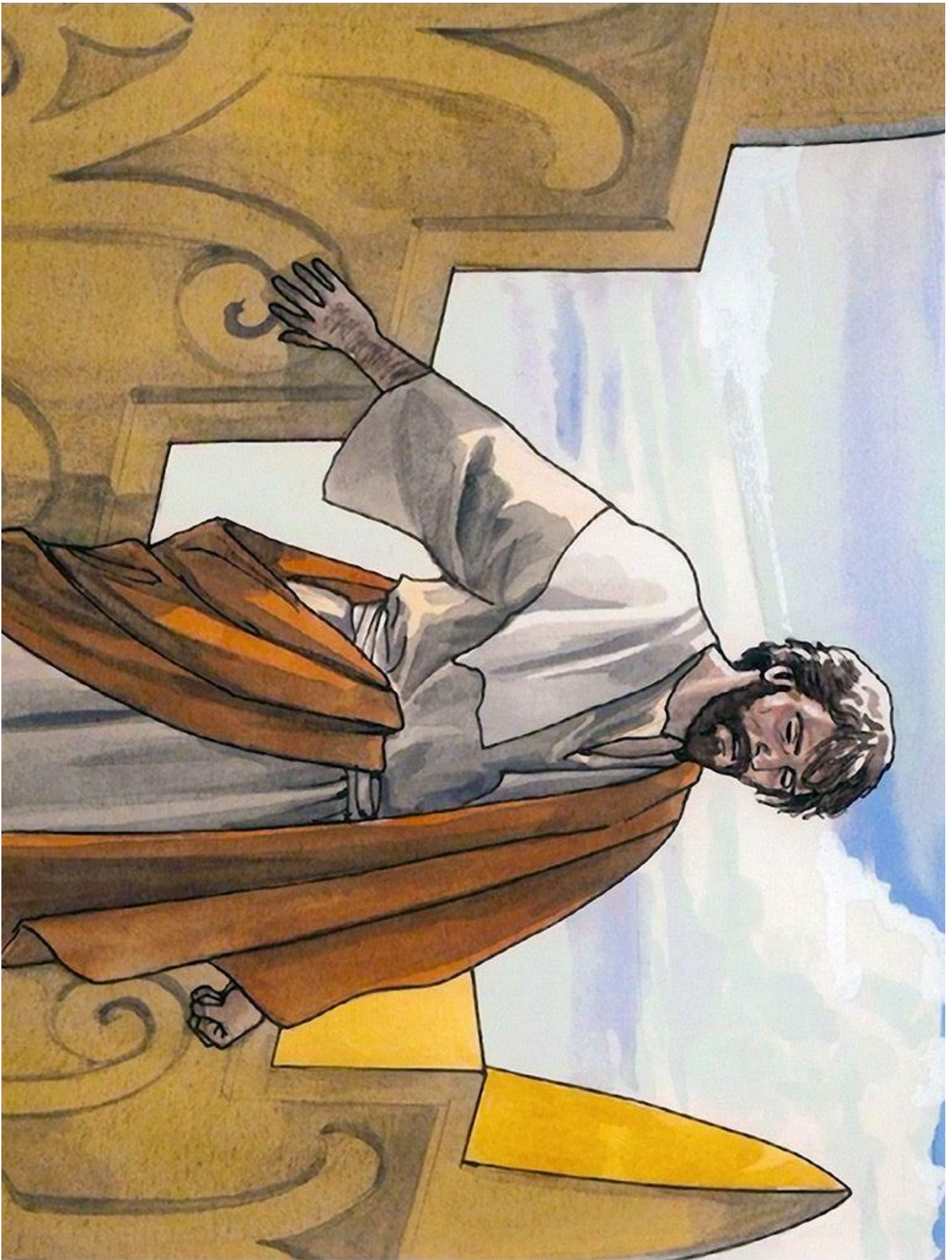
18-story building, about as tall as the “highest pinnacle of the Temple” (120 cubits)

<https://www.abandonedfl.com/barnett-national-bank/>





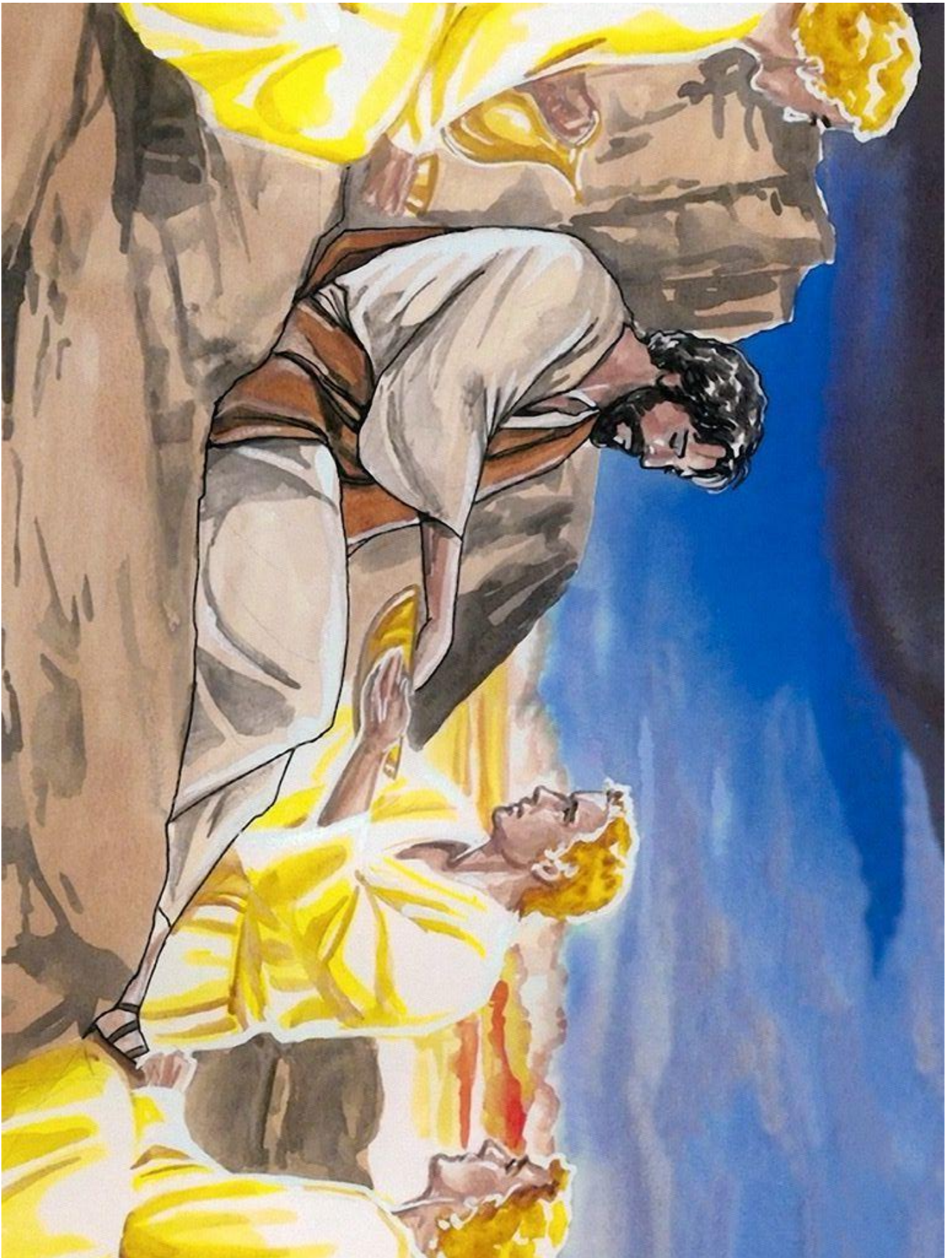














# THE ARMOR OF GOD

## EPHESIANS 6:10-18

"... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

### The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)

Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

### The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)

Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

### The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)

Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

### The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)

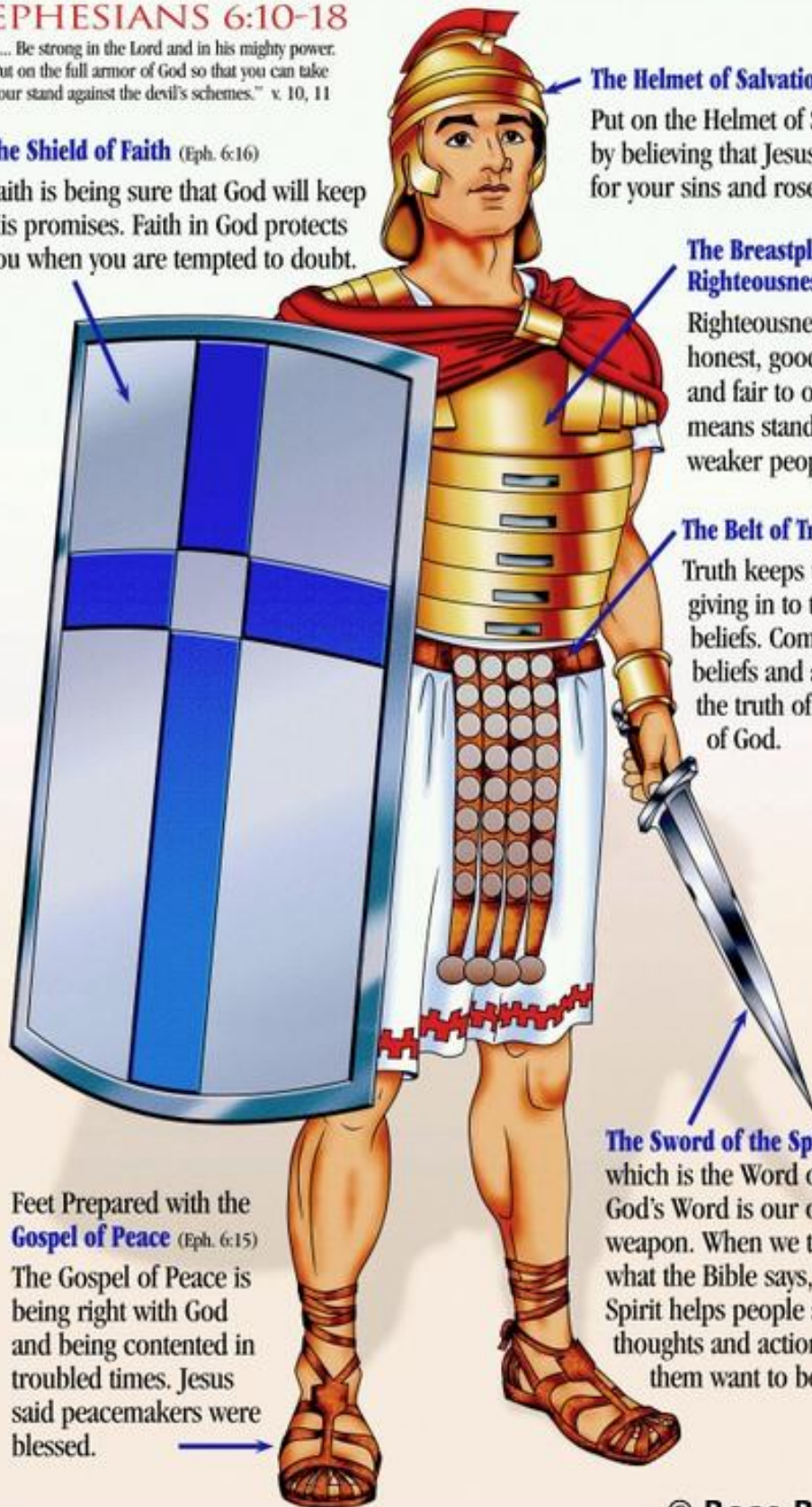
Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

### The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)

which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.



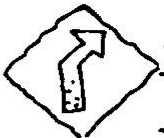





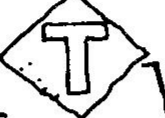




### Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)

The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.



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Follow the traffic signs to find a message that helped Jesus steer away from the devil. Each sign stands for a letter. Learn which letter from the partly decoded message below. Read Matthew 4:1-11 for help. Then decode the message.

"At  his I  ill  ive  
 yo ,  e  aid, "if  ou  
 w  ll bow d  wn an   
 wo  shi  m .

