

## February 4 – 10: Matthew 4; Luke 4-5

### The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me

#### **The temptation of Christ (Matthew 4: 1 - 11; Luke 4: 1 - 13):**

In the [Sunday School Gospel Doctrine Manual](#) there is a superb quote by Jeffrey R. Holland that explains how all of Satan's attempts to tempt the Savior had to do with bending the definition of Christ's calling and using His power to satisfy Himself and not the Father's plan.

The "wilderness experience" is useful for the Lord not only for testing us, but for bringing us to our most humble point, where we are totally dependent upon God for our every need. You might want to discuss how the wilderness was valuable for the Israelites during the Exodus, and how our own personal "wilderness experiences" can make or break our faith.

#### **And Jesus went about all Galilee (Matthew 4:23):**

Capernaum was located on the north side of the Sea of Galilee and was a center for fishing. The "Village of Nahum" (the word Nahum meaning 'pleasant') may have had about 1,500 inhabitants, some of them Gentiles and ruling Romans. Christ spent a lot of time in Capernaum rather than in His hilly home of Nazareth. A possible reason for this was given by Himself when He preached in a synagogue there. The congregation was incensed that He spoke of Himself as the one who fulfilled prophecy and cast Him out. "No prophet is accepted in his own country" (Luke 4:24). Why is it that the people would not accept the carpenter's son? This would be a good discussion for your family.

#### **Jesus preached before the congregation in Nazareth (Luke 4: 18 - 24):**

Any man in Judaism can read before the congregation once he reaches bar mitzvah age in his 12<sup>th</sup> year. Note that in Jewish congregations the scriptures are sung, not spoken. Modern congregations normally have a rabbi (the spiritual leader), a "temple president," who runs the business end of the synagogue, and a cantor, who sings the scriptures. Go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6k_Orlkk9Ww) and do a search for Cantor Azi Schwartz, a cantor in New York City. At this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6k\\_Orlkk9Ww](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6k_Orlkk9Ww) Schwartz sings scriptures for the high holy day of Yom Kippur. Cantors are not just learned in their faith, they have beautiful, trained voices.

Jesus insulted the congregation in that he said the widow of Sarepta received miracles at the hand of Elijah, and Naaman was healed (both Gentiles), yet there were many Israelites who needed help and didn't receive it. He inferred that the Israelites were not worthy of help. This was the tipping point for His rejection by the congregation in Nazareth.

#### **The devils knew Jesus (Luke 4:34):**

Satan and his followers remember the pre-existence. Our forgetting comes from entering a mortal, infant body. This gives them an advantage in knowing your potential, which they will do anything possible to keep you from reaching. You could say that the devils had a

perfect knowledge that Jesus is the Christ, but this testimony cannot save them. Why isn't that enough to guarantee them a place in heaven?

**The Lake of Gennesaret (Luke 5:1):**

The word, Gennesaret, refers to the Hebrew name for the Sea of Galilee, which is Yam (meaning sea) Kinneret (meaning harp). The name refers to the shape of the inland sea. It's outlet is the Jordan River, which flows south to the Dead Sea (Yam Sof (or end sea)).

**Toiled all the night (Luke 5:5):**

Fishing on the Sea of Galilee is done at night, and the popular catch is called today St. Peter's Fish, like tilapia. Winds come up very suddenly on the Sea of Galilee and can be very dangerous.



**The man let down through the rooftop (Luke 5: 18 - 26):**

There are so many aspects that can be discussed in this story. The man who was sick had faith, yes, but so did his friends, and they went to great effort to get to Jesus with great reward. Jesus manifested His power and authority to the Pharisees showing He had the power to both heal infirmities and forgive sins. Everyone was stricken with wonder. But Christ's manifestations of power and authority were completely outside the structure of the Jewish priesthood at the time.

**New wine in old bottles (Luke 5: 36 - 39):**

This parable is talking about people who are so steeped in their old traditions that they can't receive new ones without breaking. The cloth image has the same message. Unbending

people can be found everywhere, not just in the Church. In the living church, policies change, enlightenment comes line upon line. We have to be open to accept both.

# Come Follow Me

NEW TESTAMENT 2019

## FISHERS OF MEN ACTIVITY

### Matthew 4; Luke 4-5

In Matthew 4:18-20, Jesus approaches Simon Peter and Andrew and says, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” There are many things Jesus can teach us to help us reach our divine potential. It is through him that we become the best we can be. Here is a fun fishing activity to learn of the different ways Christ helps us grow and learn:

**Materials:** paper fish with quotes (found below), 8-10 paper clips, magnet, string, pencil/pen

Print and cut out the paper fish found below. Each has a general conference quote talking about how Jesus helps us grow. Two of the fish are blank, giving you the option to write down your own favorite quotes on this topic. (Note: You may print them out on colored paper or have your kids help you color them, if you would like.)

Put a paper clip on each fish.

Make a fishing rod by tying a pen or pencil to one end of a piece of string and tying a magnet to the other end of the string.

Spread out the fish on the floor or another surface.

As a family, read Matthew 4:18-20. Discuss what it means to be “fishers of men.” Explain that Jesus helps us grow and learn in many ways.

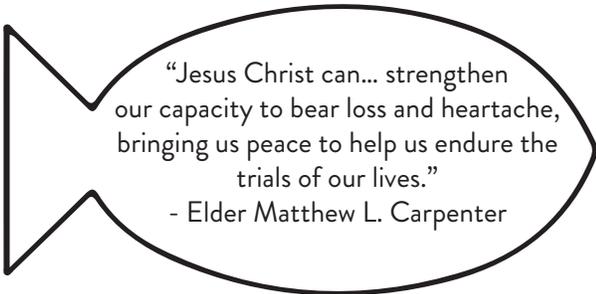
Let each child take a turn “fishing.” Once they have caught and reeled in a paper fish, read the quote as a family and discuss it if you would like.

When all the fish have been “caught,” consider discussing a few questions found in the Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families book:

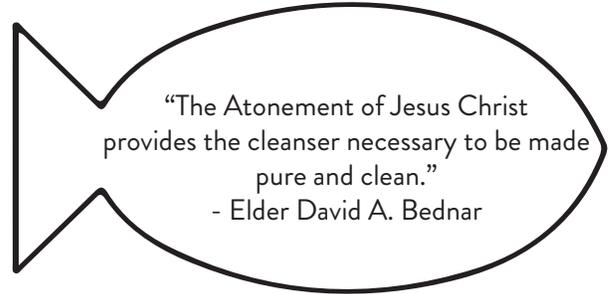
When have you felt the Savior calling you to follow Him?

How can you show the Lord that you are willing to “[forsake] all” (Luke 5:11) to follow Him?

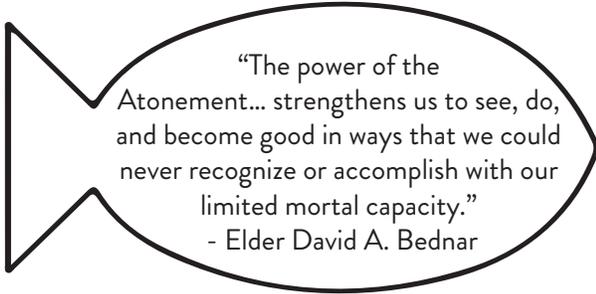
\* Feel free to alter this activity depending on the ages and attention spans of your kids.



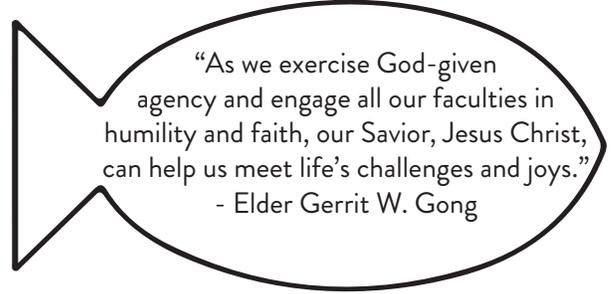
“Jesus Christ can... strengthen our capacity to bear loss and heartache, bringing us peace to help us endure the trials of our lives.”  
- Elder Matthew L. Carpenter



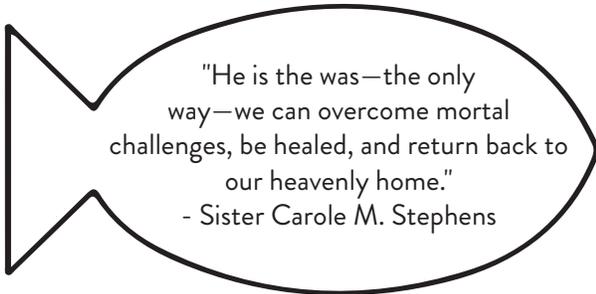
“The Atonement of Jesus Christ provides the cleanser necessary to be made pure and clean.”  
- Elder David A. Bednar



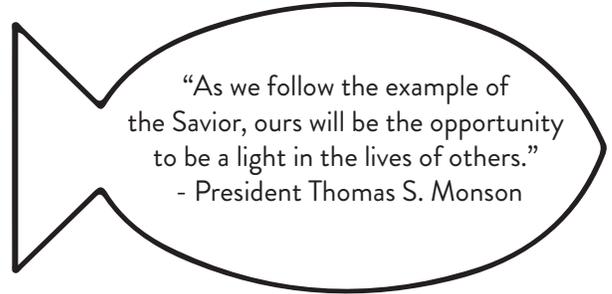
“The power of the Atonement... strengthens us to see, do, and become good in ways that we could never recognize or accomplish with our limited mortal capacity.”  
- Elder David A. Bednar



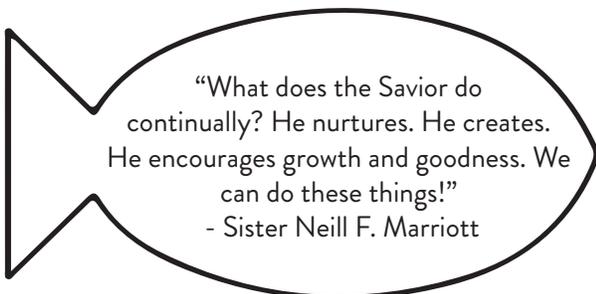
“As we exercise God-given agency and engage all our faculties in humility and faith, our Savior, Jesus Christ, can help us meet life’s challenges and joys.”  
- Elder Gerrit W. Gong



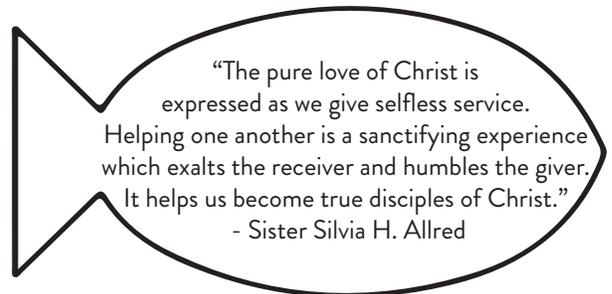
“He is the way—the only way—we can overcome mortal challenges, be healed, and return back to our heavenly home.”  
- Sister Carole M. Stephens



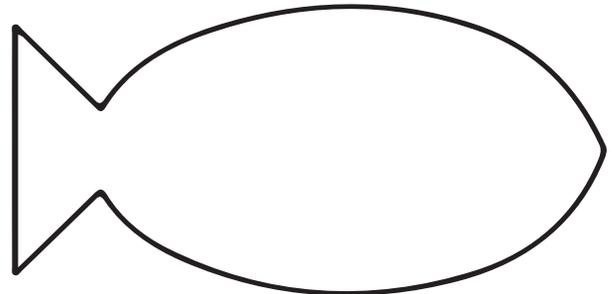
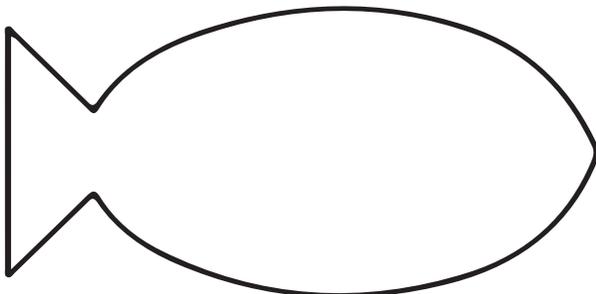
“As we follow the example of the Savior, ours will be the opportunity to be a light in the lives of others.”  
- President Thomas S. Monson



“What does the Savior do continually? He nurtures. He creates. He encourages growth and goodness. We can do these things!”  
- Sister Neill F. Marriott



“The pure love of Christ is expressed as we give selfless service. Helping one another is a sanctifying experience which exalts the receiver and humbles the giver. It helps us become true disciples of Christ.”  
- Sister Silvia H. Allred



# Come Follow Me

NEW TESTAMENT 2019

## SCRIPTURE BOOKLET - THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

### Matthew 4; Luke 4-5

Credit for this idea goes to Ticia at Adventures in Mommydom.

When Jesus was tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13), he quoted scripture to help him resist those temptations. We can also find strength in knowing scripture and the teachings of the gospel. Here is a fun craft that helps kids become more familiar with key scriptures:

**Materials:** one printed booklet for each kid (found below), stapler, scissors, crayons/colored pencils

Print out a scripture booklet for each child and gather the remaining supplies.

Read the story of the temptation of Jesus together (Matthew 4:1-11 and/or Luke 4:1-13). Discuss how Jesus resisted temptation from Satan. Talk about how we can also resist temptation by being familiar with the scriptures and teachings of the gospel.

Explain that now we're all going to make our own little scripture booklets so we can remember important scriptures.

If the kids are old enough, let them help cut out the booklet pages.

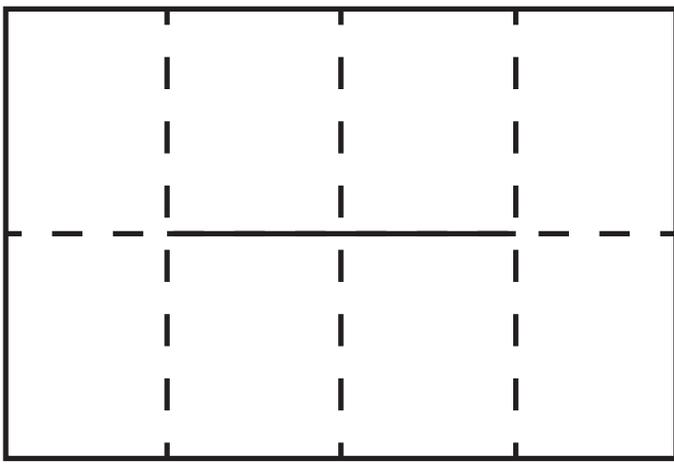
Let the kids color and decorate their own booklet pages.

Help them staple their booklet together.

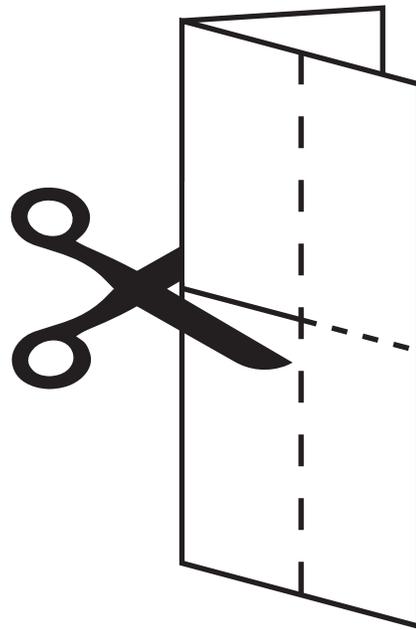
Read through the scriptures in the booklet together and talk about when knowing each scripture would be helpful. (This process of reading and discussing can take place in one day, several days, several weeks, etc. Go at the pace that's best for your family and children's ages. You can also choose to review certain scriptures in the booklet every now and then to help the kids become more familiar with them. Older kids may set goals to memorize these verses.)

\* Feel free to add additional scripture pages if you would like. There are two blank pages for this purpose.

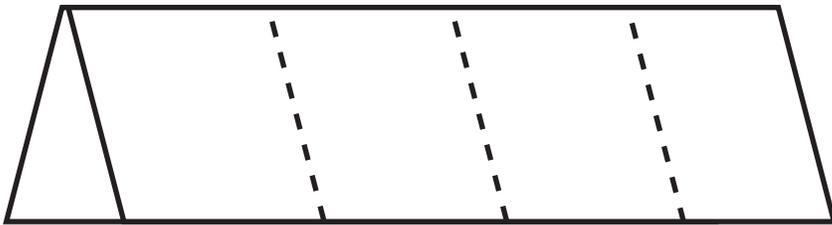




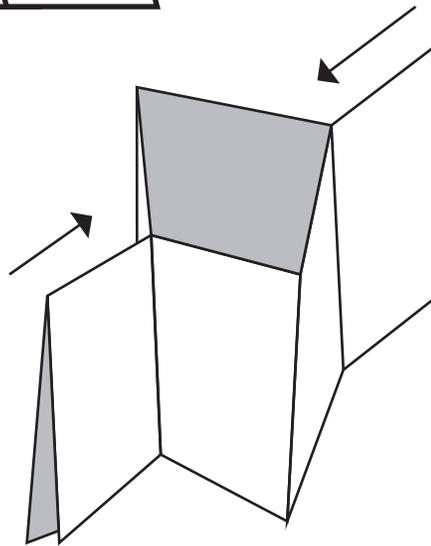
1. Fold 8 Rectangles



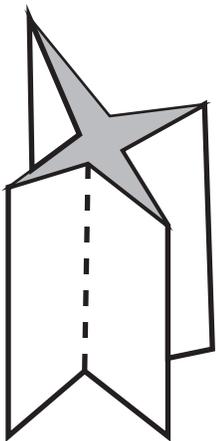
2. Cut through the two center folds that are shown as a solid line in step 1



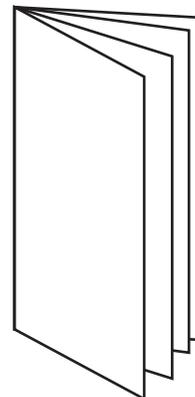
3. Fold Horizontal/Landscape



4. Push left to right to center to form cube



5. Crease edges



6. Fold around with cover on front