



THRU THE BIBLE with BOOT THE MULE

Quarter 9 -- The Life of Christ - Part I

Lesson 7 -- The Temptation of Christ

Overview

- * **Theme** Resist the Devil and temptation.
- * **Goal** For each child to learn how to resist the Devil and temptation.
- * **Verse** James 4:7.
- * **Guests** Boot the Mule, Gloria VanderBoot, Smithfield, the Devil, and Oscar.
- * **Songs**
 - *A Servant with a Teachable Heart.*
 - *Boot the Mule's Official Book of Mule History and Behavior.*
 - *Trust Not in the King.*
 - *The Devil Is a Loser.*
- * **Props**
 - The Devil needs a black outfit, black hat, dark sunglasses, a brick, a chair, and a globe.
 - The boy you choose to play Jesus will need a Bible.

1. Greeting and Preview

Welcome, everybody, to

_____ Church. I'm

so glad you're here. Today we are going to study about one of the greatest battles in history -- the day that the Devil went one-on-one against Jesus and lost.

--Today, Boot the Mule will be with us along with his favorite aunt, the world's foremost authority on mule manners -- Mrs. Gloria VanderBoot.

--We will also have a visit from two of your favorite pigs -- Oscar and Smithfield, plus a surprise visit from another guest. So hold on to your hats!

Part 1 -- Opening Exercises

2. Welcome Song

3. Opening Prayer

4. Roll Call

5. Pledges

6. Offering

7. Prayer Time



A Servant with a Teachable Heart

(Track #1 for vocal version; Track #16 for instrumental version)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
A workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
Rightly dividing the word of truth --
A servant with a teachable heart. Let's learn!

8. Riddle Review

Riddle # 39 --

True or False -- Jesus was "he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord".

False. That prophesied prophet was John the Baptist, the herald, or forerunner, of Jesus. (Matthew 3:1-3)

Riddle # 40 --

What was John the Baptist's first message recorded in the Gospel of Matthew?

"Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 3:1, 2)

Riddle # 41 --

Why was John the Baptist called John the Baptist?

- a. Because he was the pastor of a Baptist church.
- b. Because he was a member of a Baptist church.
- c. Multitudes of people "were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins."

The correct answer is c. (Matthew 3:6)

Riddle # 42 --

What did John the Baptist say when he first saw Jesus?

- a. Who's that guy?
- b. Hey, look! There's Jesus!
- c. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

The correct answer is c. (John 1:29)

Riddle # 43 --

What happened right after John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River?

- a. "Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water".
- b. "and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him".
- c. "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
- d. All of the above.

The correct answer is d. (Matthew 3:16, 17)

9. Song Review

Trust Not in the King

(Track #10 for vocal version; Track #25 for instrumental version)


Trust not in the king. Trust not in the king.
The king is completely unworthy.
Trust not in the king. Trust not in the king.
He's jealous of Jesus Christ.

He says he wants to see the Babe.
But he only wants to see Him dead.
So you must keep one step ahead
To keep the Babe alive.

Trust not in the king. Trust not in the king.
The king is completely unworthy.
Trust not in the king. Trust not in the king.
Trust only in Jesus Christ.

Trust not in the king. Trust not in the king.
Trust only in Jesus Christ.



10. **Bible Memory Verse.**  Although our lesson is taken from the Gospel story of the temptation of Christ, our Bible Memory Verse is found in James 4:7. When the Devil tempted Jesus, Jesus was able to overcome the Devil through the Word of God. When we are tempted, we need to do what Jesus did, as explained in James 4:7: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."



1. Introducing Boot the Mule

Ldr *(Select a boy and a girl to come up front.)* Children, let's give a big welcome to Boot the Mule. *(All children clap and whistle.)*



Boot *(Boot stairsteps up while the children are clapping. The Leader quiets the children down. Boot then says)* Howdy! Howdy! Howdy! Boot the Mule here! Let's all sing together!

Boot the Mule's Official Book of Mule History and Behavior *(Track #2 for vocal version)*

Boot Warn't that some good sangin'? *(Boot stairsteps down.)*

2. Introducing Gloria

Ldr Today, we are going to learn what happened to Jesus right after He was baptized. Jesus went one-on-one with the Devil and won! To teach us about that momentous occasion, let's welcome none other than the world's foremost authority on mule manners -- Mrs. Gloria VanderBoot!

Glor *(Walks in very happily, holding up her index finger, and chanting)* Jesus is #1! Jesus is #1!

Ldr Why, Mrs. VanderBoot, you seem especially happy this week.

Glor I'm celebrating the victory of Jesus over the Devil in the wilderness. Jesus is #1! Jesus is #1!

3. Introducing Smithfield

Smith *(Offstage)* Beep! Beep!

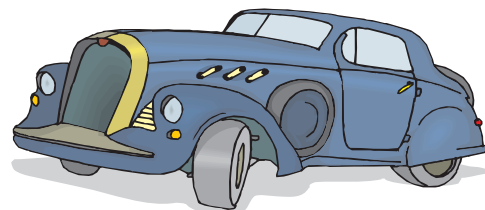
Glor Oh my! What is that sound?

Smith *(Offstage, louder)* Beep! Beep!

Glor That sounds like the horn of a Rolls Royce Silver Shadow. I had better open the stage door.

Smith *(When the door opens, Smithfield stairsteps up.)* Top of the morning, Mrs. VanderBoot.

Glor Good morning, Smithfield. We have not seen you for a while.



Smith I have been doing quite a bit of traveling, but I returned to referee the big fight.

Glor Referee the big fight? Whatever are you talking about?

Smith Just hold on. You will see . . . *(Turns to look at the door.)* And in this corner is . . . the Devil.

4. Introducing the Devil and Jesus

Devil *(Bursts through the door, wearing a black outfit, black hat, and dark sunglasses, grinning wickedly, pumping his hands overhead, yelling)* I'm #1! I'm #1!

Glor *(Snidely)* No, you're not. You're a loser.

Devil *(Glaring down at her)* Oh, yeah? Just you wait and see, Mrs. VanderPoof!

Smith *(Flourishing)* And in this corner is . . . Jesus! *(Looks around, bewildered, then says to Gloria)* Mrs. VanderBoot, perhaps you could select one of the young lads to play the role of Jesus.

Glor Good idea. Boys and girls, your goal in life is to be more like Jesus. So who wants to play the role of Jesus in our re-enactment of the temptation of Christ? *(Select one boy.)*

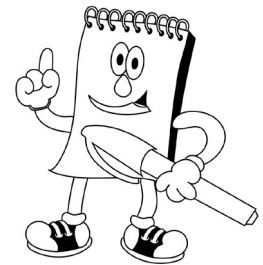
Devil *(Sneering at the lad)* Ha-ha-ha! Ha-ha-ha!

Smith After Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, then was "Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."

Devil This is gonna be the thrilla in the wildaness.

Glor Smithfield, what kind of training program did Jesus go through to prepare for the big battle in the wilderness?

"[M]an shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."
Luke 4:4b



Smith Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights.

Glor Oh my! What an odd way to prepare for a big battle.

Smith Mrs. VanderBoot, Jesus was fighting spiritual battles, not physical battles.

5. Round One

Smith All right, folks! Let the battle begin. Ding! Ding! Ding! Round One!

Devil *(Walks up to Jesus.)* Hey, Jesus, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." *(He picks up the brick and stretches it out toward Jesus.)*

Glor *(Intervenes. She hands Jesus the Bible and declares)* Children, Jesus did not take the bait or the brick. Instead, Jesus answered: "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Devil Curses!

Smith Ding! Ding! Ding! Round One goes to Jesus.

Glor The best way to defend yourself against the Devil is to be armed with the Word of God.

6. Round Two

Smith Ding! Ding! Ding! Round Two!

Devil *(Walks up to Jesus.)* Hey, Jesus, come here. I want to show you something. *(He grabs Jesus and stands him on a chair up front.)* "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone." Jump down. Then we will have some special effects as your angels protect you from falling. C'mon now!

Glor *(Makes sure Jesus does not fall or jump.)* Notice how the Devil started quoting from the Word of God. The Devil is a trickster. But Jesus did not take the bait. Jesus stood His ground and said, *(holding up the Bible)* "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

Devil Curses!

Smith Ding! Ding! Ding! Round Two goes to Jesus.

Glor That's right, children! The Devil knows the Word of God, too. The Devil tried to trick Jesus with God's Word, but Jesus knew God's Word better than the Devil.



7. Round Three

Smith Ding! Ding! Ding! Round Three!

Devil I don't give up easy. *(Grabs the globe and walks up to Jesus.)* Hey, Jesus, let me show you something. You see this here globe? Look at all of the countries and kingdoms. All these will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Glor *(Makes sure Jesus does not fall or jump.)* Many people lust for power. If the Devil offered them one kingdom, much less all of the kingdoms, they would leap at the chance. But Jesus did not take the bait. Jesus stood His ground and said, *(holding up the Bible)* "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Devil Curses!

Smith Ding! Ding! Ding! Round Three goes to Jesus. And the winner of the match is Jesus!

Glor *(Holds up Jesus' hand.)*

Devil Curses! Spoiled again. *(He lurks around for a few seconds.)* I won't give up. I will keep tempting and twisting the Word of God. *(Exits with a wicked laugh.)*

Glor Children, the Devil is a loser. Jesus defeated the Devil in the wilderness, Jesus defeated the Devil at Calvary, and Jesus defeated the Devil at the empty tomb. Don't follow the Devil; he's a loser. Follow Jesus; He's the way to victory. Let's all sing.

The Devil Is a Loser

(Track #26 for instrumental version)

All

The Devil was a loser in Heaven.
He was a loser at Calvary.
The Devil was a loser in the garden tomb.
And the Devil was a loser with me.
The Devil will also be a loser
Throughout all eternity.
Don't follow the Devil. He's a loser.
Follow Jesus, the Way to victory.
Will you follow the Devil? He's a loser.
Let's follow Jesus, the Way to victory.



8. Introducing Oscar

Oscar (*Stairsteps up.*) Hey, where is he?

Smith Oh, good morning, Oscar. Are you looking for somebody?

Oscar Yeah, I'm looking for the Devil.

Glor Oscar, I'm afraid many boys and girls seem to be following the Devil these days.

Oscar Well, I'm not gonna follow him. I'm gonna fight him.

Glor Uh, Oscar, the Devil is very smart and very strong. You should not pick a fight with the Devil. You ought to just spend more time with Jesus and stay away from the Devil.

Oscar Ahh, Mrs. VanderBoot, I ain't afraid of no Devil. If he ever comes around, I'll punch his lights out. (*Bobs around some more.*) Fa-fa-fa-fa!

Glor Oh, Oscar, that is not the way to fight the Devil. When Jesus fought the Devil, Jesus fought him with the Word of God. The Bible is our only defense against the Devil.

Devil (*Slowly rises behind Oscar in the stage area. Gloria and Smithfield see him, and in shock, back away. Of course, Oscar keeps blathering while the Devil sneaks up on him.*)

Oscar I ain't askeered of no Devil. I'm rough, and I'm tough, and I'm all that stuff.

Devil (*Taps Oscar on the shoulder.*) Excuse me?

Oscar Hey, Smitty, don't bother me now. I'm in training to fight the Devil.

Devil (*Taps Oscar on the shoulder again.*) Excuse me?

Oscar (*Irritated, he jerks around.*) Smitty, I told you not to bother . . .

Devil (*Smiles*) Boo!

Oscar (*Panics.*) Agggghh! (*Oscar keeps screaming as he runs all around the stage in total fright.*) Smithfield, help me! Smithfield, help me! Help! Help!

Devil (*Sneers and growls and acts like he is going to devour Oscar. Then, he laughs a wicked laugh and makes a grand exit.*)

Oscar (*Watches the Devil leave, then turns.*) M-m-m-rs. VanderBoot, did you see who that was?

Glor Oh, Oscar, I was so frightened.

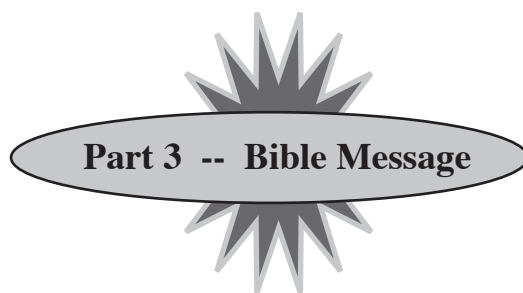
Oscar (*Smirking*) Oh, you were? Not me. I wasn't scared.

Smith Oh, Oscar, you are so-o-o-o-o disgusting!

Glor (*Shakes her head.*) Oh, Oscar, we cannot fight the Devil in our own strength. People need to trust in Jesus, Who has already defeated the Devil.

Oscar Yeah, I guess you're right. I keep forgetting.

Glor Children, listen to **Rule # 6 -- "Resist the devil."** James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." See you next week. Toodles!



Submit to God, and Resist the Devil

- 1. Introduction.** Henry and Henrietta were brother and sister. (*Select a boy and girl to play the roles.*) They loved to run and jump and play, just like other boys and girls. And sadly, just like other boys and girls, Henry and Henrietta were often tempted to do bad things.

In fact, Henry and Henrietta were tempted by the same three things that the Devil tempted Jesus with -- "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" -- all of which are listed in God's Word in I John 2:16. Let's hear more of the story of Henry and Henrietta.

2. **The Temptation.** Do you remember how the Devil first tempted Jesus? Jesus had not eaten for forty days and forty nights. The "tempter came to him" and said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." Do you think you could be tempted by food?

One fine summer afternoon, Henry and Henrietta were playing in the backyard. Henry told his sister, "We have been playing so long; I am getting hungry." Henrietta looked at her watch and responded, "Well, it is still three hours before supper. You will just have to wait."

Henry's stomach growled. "I can't wait. I'm hungry now!"

Just then, Henry looked toward the house. There, on the window sill of the kitchen, was a freshly baked cake, cooling in the shade of the afternoon. "I'm going to get me a piece of cake," he declared. As Henry walked toward the house — toward the cake — he could almost hear the cake cry out to him, "Eat me! Eat me!" Henrietta cried out, "Wait, Henry. Mom said that cake is for supper."



3. **How Did Jesus Handle Temptation?** Children, let's face it. All of us have been tempted like Henry was being tempted. In fact, Jesus was also tempted the same way. How do you think Henry should handle the temptation?
- Do you think he should grab the cake and start eating it?
 - Or do you think that maybe Henry should submit himself to God and resist the cake?

What did Jesus do in that situation? Matthew 4:4 tells us that Jesus said, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Jesus was quoting from the Old Testament. (*Read Deuteronomy 8:1-3.*) What should Henry do? Should he eat the cake? Should he disobey his mother?

4. **How Did the Old Testament Hebrews Handle Temptation in the Wilderness?** Let's take another look at how a group of people handled temptation in the wilderness. (*Read I Corinthians 10:1-13.*)
- Verse 6 -- "we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted."
 - Verse 9 -- "Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents." When we succumb to temptation, we will be destroyed.
 - What would have happened if Henry had taken that cake and eaten all of it?
 - o He would have ruined supper for everyone else.
 - o He would have gotten a stomachache from eating so much.
 - Verse 11 -- "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples".

5. **How To Resist Temptation Today.** Jesus is a good example of how to resist temptation, and the Old Testament Hebrew children in the wilderness are a bad example. How should you handle temptation today? Let's return to our story.
- a. **Realize there is a way of escape.** It is not a sin to be tempted. It is a sin to succumb or give in to temptation. As Henry headed toward the house, heeding the call of the cake, "Eat me! Eat me!," Henrietta recited I Corinthians 10:13: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." As he listens to his sister reciting the Word of God, Henry replies, "But how do I escape the temptation?"

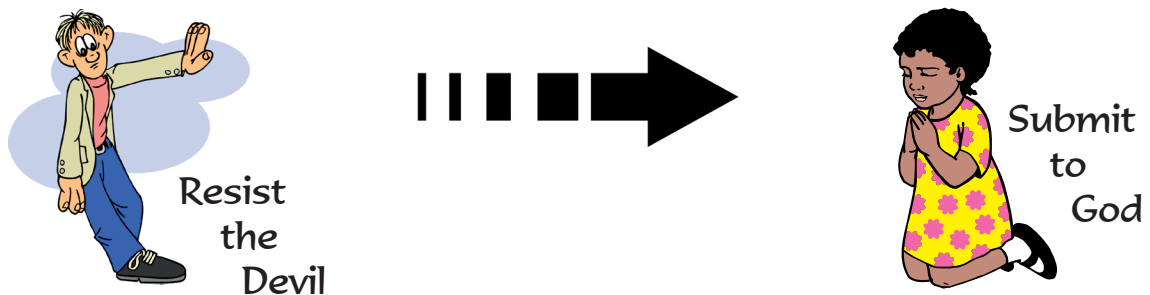
- b. Submit to God.** Henrietta cries out, "Remember the Bible Memory Verse that we learned in Junior Church?" Henry starts to think. Hmm. James 4:7: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Henrietta then says, "That's right, Henry. You have to submit to God."

Henry calls back to his sister, "What does that mean?" She replies: "Remember Deuteronomy 8:1?" Henry answers, "What does it say?" Henrietta recites, "All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do". Henry stops in the path to the house and thinks: "Hmmm, what commandments would I be breaking if I grabbed the cake and ate it?" Children, can you think of any of the Ten Commandments that Henry would be breaking? (Exodus 20)

- How about the fifth Commandment? "Honour thy father and thy mother".
- How about the eighth Commandment? "Thou shalt not steal."

As Henry falters, Henrietta reminds him: "Submit to God. Submit to God."

- c. Resist the Devil.** Henry is torn between his growling stomach and his knowledge that he should submit to God. He feels tugged back and forth, like a game of Tug of War. "Keep resisting!" Henrietta cries out. Henry cries out, "Lord, help me!" The longer he resists, the easier the battle becomes. Finally, Henry turns around and goes back to play.



6. Invitation

- a. A Tug of War for your soul.** The Devil is engaged in a Tug of War with Jesus for your soul. The Devil wants you; Jesus wants you. The Devil will win unless you submit to Jesus. Will you call upon the name of the Lord and be saved?
- b. A Tug of War with sin.** Even after you are saved, you will be tempted to sin. When you face that temptation, remember three things.
1. Realize that there is a way of escape.
 2. Submit to God.
 3. Resist the Devil.

Are you struggling with a particular sin just like Henry was? You can gain the victory today!