

Temptation
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Four days ago was Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Elizabeth, Barabas, Sam and Running Chairs all decided to give up something for Lent! It's actually not too late for you to decide to give up something for Lent. Maybe you could give up candy bars.

Well, at any rate, if you DO give up something, expect to be tempted. This is what happened to Elizabeth, Barabas, Sam and Running Chairs. Oh, but first, THS is what happened to Jesus.

After Jesus was baptized, he went out into the wilderness to pray . . . not for an hour or so, not even for a day or so, he went into the wilderness to pray for 40 days! And while he was there he fasted, that means he gave up food . . . for 40 days! And while Jesus was so hungry, the devil came and tempted him.

"Would you like this stone to become a delicious loaf of bread?" the devil tempted.
"No!" answered Jesus.



As the four second graders walked home from school together, Obadiah joined them briefly. "Hi Sam," he said. "Would you like to come over to play my new computer game?"



"Ahh, uhmm, no thanks. I can't play a computer game with you. I have some stuff to do," said Sam. Obadiah was eating a candy bar. And Elizabeth could smell it and it smelled soooooo good! Obadiah said "Oh, I have one more, would you like it Elizabeth?"

"NO ELIZABETH! YOU GAVE UP CANDY BARS FOR LENT! DON'T DO IT! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!" the others shouted! And they saved her from temptation.

As the four second graders continued walking, they passed a trash can. Barabas, being in back of the others, and being taller than the others, could see a perfectly good bite size candy bar still inside the sealed wrapper, in the trash can. "I could eat that and no one would even notice," he thought.



But Sam noticed the temptation of Barabas and thinking quickly, he performed a karate chop and knocked over the trash can to save Barabas from the candy bar!

At the next corner Running Chairs encountered a huge candy bar. The candy bar spoke to her and tempted her! "Hello. I'm loaded with cocoa butter, lactose, skim milk, milk fat, sugar, corn syrup, hydrogenated palm kernel oil, alkali, salt, egg whites, artificial and natural flavors! I'd taste really, really, really, really good!"



"Oh, like you know, I really, really, really, really want a piece of candy!" exclaimed Running Chairs. The others hurriedly chased away the candy bar to save Running Chairs from temptation.

As they continued, Sam casually opened his book bag and got out a candy bar, peeled the paper from it and before anyone could stop him, he popped it into his mouth!

"SAM!" they all shouted in unison. "WHAT ARE YOU DOING!"



"I'm eating a candy bar," he answered. "I didn't give up candy for Lent. I gave up computer games!" And they remembered he had resisted Obadiah's invitation to go play a game together.

Whatever you might give up, you must realize that you will be tempted to change your mind. The example that Jesus gave was to stay true to what we've promised God.

THE END