**Story of Jesus' temptations – a reflective story**

Written by Chris Hudson for Barnabas in Schools

You will need

*small round stone a tall tower globe*

*toy sword the three Bible quotes used by Jesus (below)*

*You may wish to have printed the reflective questions (below)*

Jesus went into the desert to pause and get ready for the work God wanted him to do. He was offered three other ways to bring God's Kingdom into this world but each one of them avoided the cross.

*After Jesus was baptised, he went off alone into the desert. He spent a long time there praying and preparing for the work God had for him to do. He went without food for 40 days. At the end of this time God's enemy, Satan, tempted him with different ways that he could bring in God's Kingdom.*

Place the stone on the cloth:

'*Why not change stones to bread and feed everyone who is hungry?* '*he said.* '*This will surely solve all the world's problems and bring in God*'*s Kingdom.*'

Place the tower on the cloth

*“Why not jump down from a high tower in Jerusalem and defy gravity by landing safely?* '*he said.* '*This will surely guarantee that people will believe in you and bring in God*'*s Kingdom.*'

Place the globe

'*Why not crush all the bad in the world with my help so that everything is then ruled by you?* '*he said.* '*This will surely bring in God*'*s Kingdom.*'

Allow the children time to think about the symbols of the story in front of them and ask them what they think of these different ways of changing the world and making it more like heaven with questions like:

***I wonder if full stomachs are really the way to a change people's hearts?***

***I wonder if a miracle jump would really convert people?***

***I wonder if crushing the opposition will really bring peace and security to the world?***

After wondering about this for a while, introduce the three ways in which Jesus responds to these temptations. He uses verses from the Bible. Print these on three separate cards to read out and then let the children decide where they should be placed in the story.

* '*No one can live only on food. People need every word that God has spoken.*'
* '*Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him.*'
* '*Don*'*t try to test the Lord your God.*'

So what is the way that Jesus takes to bring in God's Kingdom?

Take the imitation sword and now turn it upside down (a sign of choosing not to fight) and, of course, the shape that it makes is that of a cross.

***I wonder how the cross is the way to change the world, to draw people to believe and to create the kingdom of heaven in the midst of the kingdoms of the world?***

**'*No one can live only on food. People need every word that God has spoken.*'**

**'*Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him.*'**

**'*Don*'*t try to test the Lord your God.*'**

***I wonder if full stomachs are really the way to a change people's hearts?***

***I wonder if a miracle jump would really convert people?***

***I wonder if crushing the opposition will really bring peace and security to the world?***