

AN EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE FOR CHILDREN

Listen to what God is saying to us in this reading from St Mark

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

WE TOO CAN BE TEMPTED...

In the Gospel story Jesus was tempted and each time he was able to say no. The word 'devil' or 'Satan' can mean the one who is our enemy or the one who tempts us. Jesus stayed strong and was able to leave the desert and go and do God's work.

Sometimes we are tempted to do things that we shouldn't. Let's take a moment to think about the times when we haven't been able to be strong like Jesus and have allowed ourselves to be tempted:

- Sometimes we take things that don't belong to us or we take more than our fair share.
- Sometimes we don't share what we have.
- Sometimes we bully others, we start fights and we aren't always willing to make peace after a quarrel.
- Sometimes we say hurtful things to our friends, our parents, our teachers, or our families.
- Sometimes we hold grudges against other people.
- Sometimes we don't pray and we don't thank God for all that we have been given.
- Sometimes we can be lazy and unhelpful.
- Sometimes we are not thankful for our parents, our brothers and sisters, and all the people who love us and take care of us.
- Sometimes we don't really pray with other people when we are together in church.

Think about these things for a while....

Now let's ask God to help us when we are tempted as Jesus was:

Prayer:

For my forgetfulness, God, I am sorry.

For my unkindness to others, I am sorry.

For my selfishness or refusal to help, I am sorry.

For any broken promises I have made, I am sorry.

For when I failed to do good, I am sorry.

O God help me to live like Jesus today and every day. Amen.