



The Flash: The Last Temptation of Barry Allen, Part 1 Lesson Plan

Purpose:

To compare Barry Allen's temptation to Jesus' temptation to show how sin and evil tempt us in our own lives and how God and our fellow baptized siblings in Christ are still present with us in our times of need.

Scriptural Examples:

Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13: The Temptation of Jesus by the devil

- One or both of these passages can be used. This story is a reminder to us that even Jesus, in His full humanity, faced temptations just as we did.

Psalm 23:4

- “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.”

Supplies:

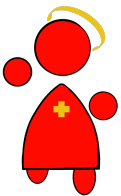
+ Computer/Device to Stream

+ A device to project video with, depending on group size

+ A copy of *The Flash* episode “The Last Temptation of Barry Allen, Part 1”

(Season 6: Episode 7). The following clips can be used:

- *The Flash* recap at the start of the episode
- Barry giving a blood transfusion to his teammate
- Rosso telling Barry what is happening to him
- Barry's conversation with the Speed Force

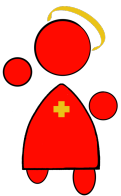




Note: if you have younger viewers, make sure you get signed permission from parents. This episode has a TV-14 rating.

Procedure:

1. Begin by either showing the beginning of the episode or by setting up the story. Barry Allen (The Flash) and the rest of Team Flash are preparing for Crisis, an event where The Flash has been told he will die saving the world. Their last mission before the Crisis is to stop Ramsey Rosso, a super-villain who can control others by infecting their blood. One of Barry's teammates, in a fight with Ramsey, needs a blood transfusion from Barry. This somehow causes Barry to be infected with Ramsey's blood. This is where Ramsey's temptation of Barry begins.
2. Show the clip where Ramsey reveals to Barry that he is slowly taking over Barry's mind and that he can offer Barry the ability to survive Crisis. Discuss the presence of sin in us and how just as Ramsey's blood slowly infects Barry, sin slowly infects us in our lives as well. Also discuss what it is that sin often tempts us with.
3. Show the clip of the Speed Force (in the form of Barry's mother) talks with Barry. Talk about how Ramsey separates Barry from the Speed Force, just as Sin separates us from God. Yet even then, the Speed Force is there to comfort Barry. Read Psalm 23:4 and discuss how God is in the midst of our trials and suffering.



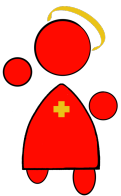


4. Show the clip when the Speed Force and Ramsey are both vying for Barry's soul. This is the point when to discuss Jesus' temptation by the devil in Matthew, Luke, or both. The devil tempts Jesus with things that would have made His ministry easier, specifically with the devil offering Jesus control of all nations and tempting Jesus to fall from the top of the Temple and let the angels catch Him, demonstrating Jesus' divinity. However, falling prey to those temptations would have meant Jesus was not truly the Son of God, just as Barry giving into Ramsey's temptations would mean he would no longer be himself.

5. Show the clip where Cisco and Caitlin are helping Barry wake up. Discuss how we need help from each other sometimes when we fall into temptation. Discuss our call to help one another in our Baptismal Vows.

Questions for Further Thought:

+ If there is time during the clip where Barry talks with the Speed Force, talk about how age can sometimes make it harder to follow God and how it causes us to be more focused on ourselves and our own lives. Talk about how keeping our lives centered on God can keep this doubt Barry talks about from creeping in. This can be a particularly fruitful conversation for older audiences.





- +If there's extra time, discuss how Ramsey manipulates the truth to tempt Barry. Compare with the devil's use of Scripture in tempting Jesus. Talk about how evil often twists the facts to tempt us. Ask if anyone sees people twisting the truth for evil purposes in their lives.
- +Discuss how the Speed Force is not God. The Speed Force is often weaker, such as how she cannot find Barry at first thanks to Ramsey's work.

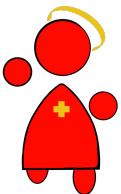


Lesson Plan Written by The Rev. Trey Kennedy

Please use this lesson plan freely while giving credit to The Rev. Trey Kennedy

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