

# Lesson Illustration

## Running Play

(Put the Cross in the middle of the stage with it labeled, "Jesus." Have two tempters at each end of the stage.)

**Silly Coach:** "Okay, remember your dream! As your coach, I don't want you eating any sweets before the race, because it slows you down. You told me your dream was to finish the marathon under four hours. Don't forget your dream when you are tempted!

**Johnny:** "Don't worry, Coach. Now that I watched this video on Joseph, I know exactly what to do when I am tempted—run away! Here comes a temptation right here. (Runs in place and goes over to one of the tempters holding a chocolate cake.) You're not going to get me to eat that thing—I'm running away! (Runs over to the other tempter, who is holding a holding a cupcake.) You're not going to fool me this time! Even though that cupcake looks sooooo chocolaty and... No! I am running away! (Runs over to the other tempter still holding the cake) It's not easy to run away, because it looks too yummy and tasty, but I'm ...I'm...I'm running away. (He looks like he has lost all energy and slowly makes his way to the other tempter.) That cupcake looks so heavy—it's perfect in every way. I mean, just look at it. It's not easy to just run away. Maybe...maybe I should just take a bit to get my energy up a little to keep running. (He ends up eating the whole thing) I can't believe I fell for the temptation!" (He walks off stage and the teacher joins him)



**Teacher:** “Johnny had the right idea of running away, but he ran in the wrong direction. Where could he have run? Look on this stage and tell me where Johnny could have run. (Cross is directly behind them) That’s right—run to Jesus! How can we run to Jesus when we are tempted? What’s more important—eating chocolate cake or obeying our leaders? If you want to be like everyone else, you can give in to temptation. If you want to live your dream, you’re going to have to say no to some things. Johnny can eat that cake, but in return, he forfeits his dream of finishing the marathon. If Johnny wants to finish the race, he must remember his dream and run to Jesus. (Johnny returns and runs over to the Cross.)

**Johnny:** If I want to overcome temptation, I must remember my dream and run to Jesus!