

Lesson Aim: To grasp a clear understanding of the difference between temptation and sin...and then learn practical ways to resist temptation in our lives.



connecting

Prayer: Start your time in prayer together, asking the Holy Spirit to direct your conversation.

Ice-breaker: What are some classical illustrations of temptation (ex: from movies, literature, etc.)?

1. In the message Sunday, how did Scott explain the difference between temptation and sin?
2. **Read James 1:13-15.** As described in this passage, how does temptation lead to sin?
3. Temptation to sin often results from our desire to meet legitimate needs in an inappropriate way. What are some of these legitimate needs? What are some ways people try to meet these needs inappropriately through sin?



growing

4. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.** How does this verse challenge, encourage or confuse you?
5. Do you have any personal examples of how God has provided a way of escape out of temptation in your life?
6. **Read Genesis 39:1-12.** What temptation did Joseph face and why might it have been enticing?
7. How did Joseph resist this temptation? What can we learn from his example?



sewing

8. Review the section in your message notes entitled *The Way of Escape*. What is something you can do to practically apply one or more of these ideas to your life this week?
9. **Read 1 John 1:9.** If we have already given into temptation and fallen into sin, what are we commanded to do about it? Practically speaking, what does it mean to “confess our sins to God”?



reaching

10. **Read James 5:16.** Who else do we need for help and healing when we repeatedly give into temptation? How can others help us in our battles to resist temptation over the long haul?

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you. Reciting the Lord’s prayer together would be a fitting

forward to freedom - TEMPTATION

❶ TEMPTATION BIBLICALLY CLARIFIED

- Greek: πειράζω = peirázo
- a) Put to the test b) Tempt
- Sources of πειράζω / peirázo
- a) Trials/Testing: God & the general circumstances of life
- b) Temptations: Satan, the world, and the flesh (our fallen nature)
- Distinguishing between Temptation & Sin (James 1:13-15)
- Question: So when is the best time to resist temptation?
- Answer: Right at the beginning! Nip it in the bud at the very first thought!!
- Temptation Defined: Any form of enticement that leads us to disobey the will of God
- ...temptation usually offers some seeming advantage
- ...temptation is an internal craving for gratification that is normally offered from without

❷ THE BASIS OF TEMPTATION

- Legitimate needs [Promise: Philipians 4:19]

❸ THE PURPOSE OF TEMPTATION

- It's an attempt to entice us to live a life independent of God

❹ THE NATURE / CHANNELS OF TEMPTATION (1 John 2:15-17; 1 Corinthians 10:13)

- To work through the cravings of the flesh, the lust of the eyes & the pride of life to draw us away from the will of God, the Word of God & the worship of God
- Illus: Temptation of Adam & Eve (Genesis 3:1-7) - Failure
- Illus: Temptations of Christ (Matthew 4:1-11) - Success

❺ THE POWER OF TEMPTATION

❶ THE WAY OF ESCAPE

- ❶ Grow in your knowledge of the Word of God (2 Timothy 2:15)
- ❷ Turn to Christ in the midst of the battle (Hebrews 4:15-16)
- ❸ Maintain a constant discipline of your thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:5)

❹ WHAT IF IT'S TOO LATE?