

Main Street Church - Life Group Guide

Series: **LIGHT & DARK**

Part 3 – Temptation: The Struggle is Real

November 6, 2016



Connect (10min)

Use the Lord's Prayer [[Matthew 6:9-13](#)] to Open in Prayer

"God's Truth is most effectively learned and lived in relationships." – R. Kent Hughes

*Option 1: **Our Stories** -- Have 1-2 people share the 'coles-notes' version of their story (5-7min each).

*Option 2: **What is 1 Thing you are Thankful for today? What is 1 thing we don't know about you yet?**

Check-In (10min)

Read [Mark 12:28-31](#)

*What is one tangible way that you invested in *your relationship* with GOD beyond Sunday this past week?
& what is one way that He spoke to you or impacted your life through that?

*What is one tangible way that you invested in *Loving Others* this past week?
& what is one way that you were impacted through that?

Sunday Message Feedback (35-45min)

1. It's Hard to Say NO

What is one food that you have a hard time saying NO to? Why?

2. [What impacted you from Sunday's message by Pastor Shawn?](#)

: What challenged or encouraged you, and why? : What can you apply to your faith & life this week? How?

3. Temptation

Nelson's Bible Dictionary defines *temptation* as "*an enticement or invitation to sin, with the implied promise of greater good to be derived from following the way of disobedience.*"

If an elementary-aged child asked you "*what is Temptation?*" -- How would you answer?

4. Read [James 4:1-3](#)

a. **Do you ever think of yourself as selfish?** Have you ever actually labelled yourself selfish? Discuss.

b. **This passage illustrates that it is our own selfish desires that cause us to make bad choices.**

We can know the right thing to do but still end up doing the wrong thing. What are some "baits" that are around us that are common for people to bite into? (Example: no payments for two years...)

5. Read [James 1:13-18](#)

a. Does temptation come from God? Is *temptation* sin?

b. Why do you think James had to explain that Temptation does not come from God? Discuss.

c. Where does temptation come from? Why do you think God allows temptation to happen?

d. Read [James 4:7-8](#)

• How does the enemy utilize our selfish desires to get our focus off God and what is right?

6. Shawn mentioned that *when it comes to temptation we can choose what we will fall for but we can't choose the fall out* (consequences). How have you seen this principle come true in your own life?
7. Read [2 Samuel 12:1-23](#)
- Did David choose to fall?
 - Who chose the fallout?
 - What did it take for David to own his failure and wash his hands before God?
8. Shawn mentioned **Three things we can do to combat temptation in our lives:**
- Resist It**
 - Read [James 4:7-8](#) again.
 - What's the key for overcoming temptation according to this verse?
 - What are practical ways that you can 'resist' the devil?
 - Read [1 Corinthians 10:12-13](#)
 - Does these verses encourage you?
 - How have you seen this verse come true in your own life?
 - Shawn mentioned that it's important to not only focus on resisting the devil but start focusing on Jesus. How, does this strategy help you flee temptation?
 - Own It**
 - Read [James 4:8](#)
 - When you fall to temptation James is basically telling us to own it. Why is owning our sinful choices so important to living a life of freedom?
 - Confess It**
 - Read [James 4:8b](#) and [James 5:16](#)
 - Have you ever confessed your sins to someone else, rather than just God?
 - Why do you think God tells us to confess our sins to each other?
 - How can this practice help you live free from the lure of temptation?
 - Who is someone that you are or could be accountable to?

Is there a person or group that you can be real with and engage the battle with?

Application

3 Weapons to Engage Against Temptation this Week

- SCRIPTURE (Truth)** – Memorize it at a heart level. [Psalm 119:11](#); [Psalm 119:97-98](#); [Matthew 4:4-10](#).
- PRAYER** – [Matthew 26:41](#); [James 5:16](#).
- ACCOUNTABILITY** – Be Intentional about engaging in accountability with others! (Own It, Confess It...) [Galatians 6:1-5](#); [Ecclesiastes 4:9-12](#)

"The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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Prayer (15-20min)

***Prayer is a key weapon and way of engaging in Spiritual Warfare**

***Personal Reflection:** Quietly Listen to [Lord, I Need You](#) (by Matt Maher).

[Break into groups of 3-4, or Men & Women if your Group is coed]

What is one area or issue of spiritual battle that we can engage in prayer for you this week?

[An area that needs freedom, victory, healing, wholeness, strength, grace, truth...]

Praise God – Thank God – Pray for One Another in Jesus’ Name

Resources

C.S. Lewis on Temptation: “The moment you have a self at all, there is a possibility of putting yourself first—wanting to be the center—wanting to be God, in fact. That was the sin of Satan: and that was the sin he taught the human race. Some people think the fall of man had something to do with sex, but that is a mistake....What Satan put into the heads of our remote ancestors was the idea that they could ‘be like gods’—could set up on their own as if they had created themselves—be their own masters—invent some sort of happiness for themselves outside God, apart from God. And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history—money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery—the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.”

“No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good. A silly idea is current that good people do not know what temptation means. This is an obvious lie. Only those who try to resist temptation know how strong it is. After all, you find out the strength of the German army by fighting against it, not by giving in. You find out the strength of a wind by trying to walk against it, not by lying down. A man who gives in to temptation after five minutes simply does not know what it would have been like an hour later. That is why bad people, in one sense, know very little about badness — they have lived a sheltered life by always giving in. We never find out the strength of the evil impulse inside us until we try to fight it: and Christ, because He was the only man who never yielded to temptation, is also the only man who knows to the full what temptation means — the only complete realist.”

“We must learn by experience to avoid either trains of thought or social situations which *for us* (not necessarily for everyone) lead to temptations. Like motoring—don’t wait till the last moment before you put on the brakes but put them on, gently and quietly, while the danger is still a good way off.”

Scripture References:

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/temptation>

OneMinuteApologist – YouTube Channel

[Can Temptation Point to the Existence of God?](#)

[How Do I Overcome Sin?](#)

The Gospel Coalition – YouTube Channel

[How Does The Christian Resist Temptation?](#)

[What Does it Mean to be Delivered from Temptation and is it Possible?](#)

[How to Resist Temptation to Sin](#)

GotQuestions.org

[What are the Keys to resisting Temptation?](#)

[How Can I Overcome Temptation?](#)

[Is Temptation a Sin?](#)

[What was the Meaning & Purpose of Jesus’ temptations?](#)

Songs for Reflection

[Your Love is Strong](#) (The Lord’s Prayer) – Jon Foreman

[Lord, I Need You](#) – Matt Maher

[No Longer Slaves](#) – Jonathan David & Melissa Helser