

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide – Life In Technicolor Week #4

The Temptation Test / October 3, 2021 / Pastor Paul Taylor



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Question | If you could become an expert overnight in one of the following areas, which one would you choose and why?
 - Speak three other languages
 - Have a photographic memory of whatever you read
 - Become extraordinarily athletic and skilled in multiple sports
2. Whether describing the benchmark for sexual adultery or prescribing ways to avoid sexual temptation, the Bible often speaks about the importance of our eyes. With that as context, how much thought do you give your consumption of media and entertainment as it relates to portrayals of sex and beauty?

Matthew 5:28 (NLT) – But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Job 31:1 (NLT) – I made a covenant with my eyes not to look with lust at a young woman.

Psalms 101:1-3a (NLT) – ¹I will sing of your love and justice, Lord. I will praise you with songs. ²I will be careful to live a blameless life—when will you come to help me? I will lead a life of integrity in my own home. ³I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar.

DIVING DEEPER

3. Read through Proverbs 5 together. What observations can you take away from this passage concerning: 1) the nature of sexual temptation, 2) the effects of sexual sin, and 3) ways to fight sexual sin.

Proverbs 5 (NIV) – ¹My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight, ²that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge. ³For the lips of the adulterous woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil; ⁴but in the end she is bitter as gall, sharp as a double-edged sword. ⁵Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. ⁶She gives no thought to the way of life; her paths wander aimlessly, but she does not know it.

⁷Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say. ⁸Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house, ⁹lest you lose your honor to others and your dignity to one who is cruel, ¹⁰lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich the house of another. ¹¹At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent. ¹²You will say, “How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction! ¹³I would not obey my teachers or turn my ear to my instructors. ¹⁴And I was soon in serious trouble in the assembly of God’s people.”

¹⁵Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. ¹⁶Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? ¹⁷Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. ¹⁸May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ¹⁹A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be intoxicated with her love.

²⁰Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man’s wife? Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman?

²¹For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all your paths. ²²The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast. ²³For lack of discipline they will die, led astray by their own great folly.

4. If you're willing, share your personal story with the realities of sexual temptation and sin. Listed below are some suggested questions that could aid in sharing your story with the group.
- Have you had past struggles with sexual temptation that led to sin or are you struggling right now?
 - How has sexual temptation and sin affected your earthly relationships and relationship with God?
 - What healing have you been able to experience in this area of your life? How did this come about?
 - Do you have a particular incident in your life that looms largest when it comes to sexual brokenness?
 - Do you have any questions related to God's design for sex that you need help answering?
 - If sexual temptation hasn't been an issue for you, is there another temptation that challenges you?

Ephesians 5:8-11 (NLT) – ⁸For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! ⁹For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. ¹⁰Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them.

TAKING IT HOME

5. Pastor Paul shared that we can't merely resist sexual temptation, rather we have to unwaveringly refuse it, pre-plan our "escape route," and run. How can you apply these instructions to your life? What tactics, resources, and people do you rely on, or desire to use moving forward, to pass the temptation test?

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NIV) – ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

2 Timothy 2:22 (NLT) – Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

6. What's your biggest takeaway from this week's sermon and our group discussion?

Is there a follow-up conversation you should have with your spouse, girlfriend or boyfriend, or another person? Is there a conversation you should continue with God? Is there a next step you should take?

Prayer Prompt | As takeaways and next steps are shared, bring those, and the person who shared, before God in prayer. If a person is willing, select one other group member to pray for them.

James 5:13-16 (NIV) – ¹³Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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RIVERS CROSSING – THINGS TO KNOW

1. **When Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary (WOBE) |** We're having a night of worship and prophetic ministry on Sunday, October 24th at 6:30pm at our Mason campus. As we gather to exalt the name of Jesus, you will encounter the power of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life. Come expectantly, come ready to see God move, come to seek the extraordinary life. Where possible, Community Groups are encouraged to attend and participate in WOBE together.
2. **2022 Discipleship School |** Discipleship School is a one-year program that helps Christians from all backgrounds become fully engaged followers of Christ. The school helps students learn to hear God's voice clearly, experience a full and free life, develop intimacy with God, develop Christlike living, and understand their spiritual gifting. For more information, or to apply for the Discipleship School, click on the link below. <https://riverscrossing.com/discipleship-school/>
3. **Plan A Visit |** Have an individual or family you want to invite to Rivers Crossing? If so, we'd love for them to utilize our Plan A Visit tool. Share this link with them: <https://connect-card.com/zTE3I3TXmFG0TgizStLj>.