



## GOING DEEPER

Feb 22/23, 2020

**Title:** Discovering the Genius of Jesus Series – Week 4 ‘Temptation’

**Teacher:** Pastor Sarah

**Selected Texts:** Matthew 4:1-11, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Philippians 4:8, Psalm 119:11

This week’s message looks at the human reality of temptation. Each one of us faces temptations in different ways. The genius of Jesus models a trust in God’s goodness and faithfulness that provides a way out and that is rooted in our identity in Christ, the truth of Scripture, and God’s heart that we might experience life, and life to the full!

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Share: What would be on your plate in “The Marshmallow Test”? (Something so tempting you simply couldn’t wait to eat it!)
2. What stood out from the message this past weekend?
3. Have someone read the story of Jesus’ temptation in the desert. (Matthew 4:1-11) This took place following Jesus’ baptism, and before he began his public ministry. Why is this significant?
4. To be human, is to wrestle with temptation. We all do in various ways! (Read 1 Cor 10:13 again if you need the reminder!) We can be tempted by different things, and in different ways. (Examples: appetite for food, “stuff”, alcohol, drugs, sexual lust, power, money, influence, comparison, gossip or criticism, self-sufficiency, etc.) Why is it that we are most tempted when we are most vulnerable?
5. Think about this personally. What is one temptation you can struggle with? (If we’re honest, the reality is, we all have lots.) Would you be willing to share that with this group?

6. The Genius of Jesus, when faced with temptation, is that he was:
  - a. He was confident in his God-given identity.
  - b. He was anchored by God's Word.
  - c. He was surrendered completely to the Father.

Which of these do you need to grow in the most in this season and how can you take a first step?

7. We are better together! Walking through temptation within the context of community and with the accountability of others is part of God's design! How can this group help hold you accountable?
8. Bonus: If you've got extra time, look up and read the following passages. How do they tie into this conversation around temptation?

Matthew 6:25-34

Philippians 4:8

James 4:7

Ephesians 6

Psalms 119:11

Proverbs 4:14-15

### **Never Stop Praying:**

- Spend some time talking to God in prayer, asking for the wisdom to recognize temptations, the strength to be firmly rooted in Jesus, and the courage to walk the journey with others.
- That God will continue stirring our faith community into a deeper relationship with Him and others

*"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." - 1 Corinthians 10:13*