

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"THE WAY OF ESCAPE" | 1 COR 10:1-13 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What are movies, lessons or stories that were used as warnings that impacted you?

"Privileges" 1 Corinthians 10: 1-5

Paul uses Israel history to warn Corinthians against giving into temptation. Jews had been guided by God's cloud, provided food, water and deliverance miraculously, and had Moses to lead them, yet most fell. **What are other examples of people falling into temptation? Why doesn't experiencing God's presence and miracles make someone invulnerable to temptation?**

"Precepts" 1 Corinthians 10: 6-12

Paul makes clear that people can sin against God through sexual immorality, testing Him, complaining, and idolatry. Verse 6 says these all are signs people are desiring evil, which is opposite of God. **How can these areas be opposite of God? What are ways people are tempted in these areas today?**

"Promises" 1 Corinthians 10: 13

Paul encourages people to endure and overcome temptation by sharing God will not allow anyone to be tempted beyond their ability and He provides a way out. **What does that show about God's character? What does that mean for His people?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

All of us face temptation, but God protects us from temptations that are too much, and He provides a way out, which are often warnings from His Word and people like Paul to bring our attention to our problem. He even provides a way of forgiveness through His son Jesus when we fail. **What are ways you have been pursuing things opposite of God? Confess and ask God for forgiveness. How has Jesus provided ways of escape for you? Thank Him and encourage others with your testimony.**

The Way of Escape

I. Announce:

- A. **Slide1a Baby Dedication:** (10am) Ezra David Van Hulzen. Joshua & Kayen.
1. **Slide1b** Here's the greatest *Joy* of pastoring many yrs. Joshua/Jacob.
- B. **Slide2 FHC:** Our next **support group meeting** for those for who are fostering of have adopted children will be on **this Wed, March 20th at 7pm** in the Agape Room. Our topic will be on: *The Importance of Responding to your children Thoughtfully, Especially during Challenging Behavior*. Join us for a great **discussion** and an opportunity to **pray for one another**.
- C. **Slide3 Missions Prayer:** I am excited to extend an invitation to you to join us for *Sunday Night Missions Prayer*. In the midst of our busy lives and hectic schedules, it is crucial that we carve out moments to come together as a church family to seek the face of God. **Missions Prayer offers us the opportunity to do just that!** Join us next Sunday, **March 24th** at 6:30pm for a powerful time of prayer in the Agape room. Let's unite our hearts in prayer and intercession. **Your presence matters**.
- D. **Slide4 Annual Crosswalk** is March 29th, Good Friday. We will be gathering in the parking lot of Reliance Church near Old Town Temecula and walk **.9 miles** to Sam Hicks Park. The **destination** is the same as always, **but** we are gathering in a different place to **start** the Walk. **So, gather at 11am, begin walking at 11:15am, walk** to Sam Hick's Park in **Old Town Temecula** and **enjoy praise, worship, & a message**. There will be a **shuttle bus** back to the church parking lot, for those who don't want to walk back.
- E. **Slide5 Fellowship After Service:** Today we invite you again to enjoy our new courtyard after service. Not one do we have our **new furniture** all set up, but come and enjoy **sitting and fellowshiping w/your church family**. Enjoy a snack on us at our ... *"mini-bagels and cream cheese & yoghurt Bar"*.
- F. **Prayer:** "*Saint Patrick's Breastplate*" is an **Old Irish prayer** of protection, attributed to St. Patrick. Christ be within me, Christ behind me, **Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort & restore me, Christ beneath me,**

Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Praise to the Lord of my salvation, salvation is of Christ the Lord.

II. Slide6 Intro: *The Way of Escape*

- A. Paul is about to do a *fast-rewind* on his DVR, back to specific scene selections in Israel's **history**. **Purpose?** so the Corinthians **and** the *Calvary Murrietans*, won't be doomed to repeat it. - **After that, Paul will give us 1 of the best vss on *temptation*.**
- B. (an old Legend) **Many years ago, *Native American youths* would go away in solitude to prepare for **manhood**.** One such youth hiked into a beautiful valley, green with trees, bright with flowers. There he fasted. **But** on the third day, as he looked up at the surrounding mountains, he noticed one tall rugged peak, capped with dazzling snow. I will test myself against that mountain, he thought. He put on his buffalo-hide shirt, threw his blanket over his shoulders and set off to climb the peak. When he reached the top he stood on the rim of the world. He could see forever, and his heart swelled with **pride**. **Then he heard a rustle at his feet, and looking down, he saw a snake. Before he could move, the snake spoke. "I am about to die," said the snake. "It is too cold for me up here and I am freezing. There is no food and I am starving. Put me under your shirt and take me down to the valley."** "No," said the youth. "I am forewarned. I know your kind. **You are a rattlesnake!** If I pick you up, you will bite, and your bite will kill me." "**Not so,**" said the snake. "**I will treat you differently. If you do this for me, you will be special. I will not harm you.**" The youth resisted awhile, but this was a very persuasive snake with beautiful markings. **At last** the youth tucked it under his shirt and carried it down to the valley. There he laid it gently on the grass, *when suddenly the snake coiled, rattled, and leapt, biting him on the leg.* "**But you promised...**" cried the youth. "**You knew what I was when you picked me up.**" said the snake as it slithered away.
1. Moral: **Don't listen** to your **Temptation**. *It will be very persuasive & have beautiful markings, but don't listen.*
- C. **Outline: Privileges. Precepts. Promises.**

III. Slide7a PRIVILEGES (1-5) Read

- A. Note, Paul speaks of these events as *factual history*. Note, the 5 Privileges, the 5 All's. *privilege #1 ...*
- B. Slide7b [1] DIRECTION (1a) *all under the cloud*.
- C. Speaking of *the pillar of cloud by day*.
1. They felt they were walking aimlessly in the desert, but they weren't.
 2. They had a guide 24/7. No guessing game for them. *It turned, moved, stopped, started, they just needed to follow*. [as easy as opening their eyes]
 - a) Don't tell me ... *If I could only see a sign, then I'd follow the Lord! It didn't help them. It seems the supernatural became ordinary. They took God's presence for granted.*
- D. [2] DELIVERANCE (1b) *all passed through the sea*. (Red Sea)
- E. They didn't even get their feet wet! (dry ground)
- F. [3] LEADERSHIP (2) *all were baptized into Moses*.
- G. Baptized – immersed into Moses (i.e. brought into close relationship w/Moses)
1. Just as we have been *baptized into Christ. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*. Gal.3:27
 2. In Paul's day if you wanted to *dye a garment a different color*, you'd take it to a merchant and he'd baptize it (*bapTizo*). *He would dip it, to change its identity*. [Baptizo most often refers to our *union and identification w/ Christ*]
- H. God not only gave them *distinct direction & doors of deliverance*, but also a large leader to follow ... His man **Moses**.
- I. [4] FOOD (3) *all ate the same spiritual food*. (manna) Ex.16.
- J. For 40 years, 6 days a week. *And they never went hungry*. [We think *DoorDash* is impressive, God had the *1st Food Delivery Service*, straight to their doors]
- K. [5] DRINK (4) *all drank the same spiritual drink*. (Ex.17:5-7 water from rock)
- L. Here is Jesus' Pre-incarnate presence - a proof text Jesus couldn't have been *only a man*, for it speaks of Him being around a few millennium prior.

1. Jesus had His hand in the affairs of His people ... here providing them w/ all the **water** they needed.

M. You'd think with all of these blessings thus far: *Direction, Deliverance, Leadership, Food, & Drink*, they'd be thankful & obedient - Nope!

N. (5) **Most of them** - huge understatement! They estimate 2-3 million left Egypt ... How many of this generation entered into the land? 2! (Joshua & Caleb)

1. This had to be an eye opener for the Corinthians. All these bodies full of miraculous food-drink, now **strewn** (*overthrown*) all over the desert.

O. *Slide7c* God was not pleased – Paul's point: *Having privileges doesn't guarantee successful living!* [or **spirituality** doesn't guarantee **infallibility**]

P. You must open *God's Instruction Manual* to correctly assemble *a godly life*.

1. Here's how, w/these Precepts [precepts: *warn, instruct, rule of moral conduct*]

IV. *Slide8a* **PRECEPTS (6-12)** *Read*

A. (6,11) **Examples** – *tupos* (type, pattern, warnings, admonitions).

1. That's why it's so imp to read the **OT Examples**. *warnings, admonitions*.

B. *Slide8b* [1] **DON'T BE IDOLATROUS** (7) [Golden Calf]

C. This story is in Ex.32:6 where Aaron made the golden calf. [or melted gold in the fire & Poof, a calf popped out, as Aaron claimed]

1. *"An idol is anything that seizes the adoration that belongs to God. It can be a parent, a child, a spouse, a friend, a reputation, a goal...anything that takes God's seat on the throne of our hearts."* (Swindoll, 1 Cor.10, pg.53)

D. **We all worship**. (all humanity are worshipers)

1. Peter Kreeft said, *The opposite of Christianity is not atheism but idolatry*.

2. You may worship your mind/intellect, your own experience, scientific rationalism. **But** everyone has devoted themselves to some idol/god.

- a) Some worship their career's, or their sexual exploits, their hard bodies, their job, their house. Some worship where they live/neighborhood, their car, their clothing, their name brands.

3. *Idolatry is taking a good thing and elevating it to a God thing.*

- E. Slide8c [2] **DON'T BE SEXUALLY IMMORAL** (8) [Nm.25 Israel harlotry w/women of Moab]
- F. Phinehas, Aaron's grandson, stopped the plague when he *thrust a javelin through both a Moabite woman and an Israelite man* (who flaunted taking a Moabite women to his tent to have sex) in front of Moses all Israel, as they were all *weeping* in front of the tabernacle of meeting. [24,000 died that day]
- G. There's **never a season** where we should think that we *cannot fall* to sexual immorality. It is **not** just a problem for *teenagers, or college students, or young 30's*.
1. This is what CS Lewis said about **middle-age folks**. "*The long, dull, monotonous years of middle-age prosperity, or middle age adversity, are excellent campaigning weather for the devil.*"
- H. Slide8d [3] **DON'T TEST THE LORD** (9) [fiery serpents]
- I. They tested God in Numb.21:5, The people spoke against God and against Moses: *have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? So the LORD sent fiery serpents* among the people, and they bit the people, and many died.
1. In the back of our mind there seems to hang a sign that reads, *It'll be alright. God will forgive*. Forgetting about His *holiness* as well as His *love*.
 2. Never dare to **exploit** the Goodness of God.
- J. Slide8e [4] **DON'T GRUMBLE** (10) [Nm.16. plague, 14,700 died, put fire in censor to stop]
- K. In Numb.16 God opened up the earth and swallowed up **250 bad priests** offering *profane fire*. Well the next day all the congregation of the children of Israel **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron, saying, *You have killed the people of the Lord*.
1. Today we have perfected the art of grumbling.

2. Matter of fact we even can do it when everything is going great. I'll show you ... Have you ever complained of not having enough room in your closet, because of having so many clothes? - Have you ever complained of your freezer being too full to place something in it?

L. When we see a brother or sister *in sin*, there are **3 things** we do not know:

1. **1st**, we do not know how hard they tried not to sin. **2nd**, we do not know the power of the forces that assailed them. **3rd** we also do not know what we would have done in the same circumstances.

V. Slide9a **PROMISES (13)** *Read*

A. First, yes life is full of *temptations and tests* - not designed to make us *fall*, but to test us to *emerge stronger*.

B. They are *common* - others have endured, and come through them.

1. **Don't listen to your temptation.** *It will be very persuasive & have beautiful markings, but don't listen.*

C. **He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability** - *no, not a moment longer, not a degree hotter, than you can bear.*

D. **But this verse is even more pregnant w/promises, than a woman past her due date!**

E. **No temptation** - don't limit this word to a few temptations. It's actually the same root word as *test* in vs9. [tests, trials, temptations - *all from the same word*]

1. **Context decides:** So, it is not just limited to what we think of *temptations*, but also all the *hardships, tests, and losses* of life.

2. **When we are tested with:** cancer, with loss of job, with relational breakdowns, financial disappointments. Or disappointments with your children, or anything at all in life that threatens to *wreck your faith!*

3. **We can say all temptations are tests. And all tests are temptations.**¹

a) **All temptations pull** us away from God, with *deceitful pleasures*.

¹ John Piper, 1 Cor.10:13 Youtube Part 1.

b) All tests push us away from God, because of *pain in obedience*.

4. Here the **context** above (vs.7-10) dealt with: *sexual immorality, lack of provisions is included, danger of hardships & adversities is included.*

a) **Everything** that will lure you away from God. **Everything** that will make you angry with God. **Everything** that will disappoint you with God. **Anything** that will make you walk away from Him, because you think he wasn't taking care of you!

5. What is this promise based on? ...

F. **God is Faithful** - God pledges Himself on **His Faithfulness**.

1. **He will not let** you be tempted beyond your ability. **He will** also provide the way of escape.

2. *God is not simply a spectator of the affairs of life; he is concerned and active. **Believers can count on his help**. He will always make a way out.²*

G. ***Announce:** Fellowship After Service in the Courtyard.

H. Keywords:

John Byron examines this passage in his Biblical Views column "Paul, Jesus and the Rolling Stone" in the September/October 2015 issue of BAR. Pseudo-Philo's Biblical Antiquities. <https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/new-testament/water-from-a-walking-rock/>

² Leon Morris.