

Life Group Guide

“Temptation”

April 30-May 6, 2017

Prep:

Please make sure to review the material in the guide and pray prior to your group so you are mentally and spiritually prepared for the conversation in your Life Group. Please send an email (or better yet – personal text) to invite people back after an extra week off.

Welcome:

Take a few minutes to reconnect with your group and ask about their Spring Break, if they have been enjoying the nice weather, etc.

Video:

Show the video. It is about 3 minutes long. It will set up the conversation on Temptation.

Scripture:

1 Timothy 6:2b-14 - False Teaching and True Riches

Teach these things, Timothy, and encourage everyone to obey them. **3** Some people may contradict our teaching, but these are the wholesome teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. These teachings promote a godly life. **4** Anyone who teaches something different is arrogant and lacks understanding. Such a person has an unhealthy desire to quibble over the meaning of words. This stirs up arguments ending in jealousy, division, slander, and evil suspicions. **5** These people always cause trouble. Their minds are corrupt, and they have turned their backs on the truth. To them, a show of godliness is just a way to become wealthy.

6 Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth. **7** After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it. **8** So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.

9 But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

Paul's Final Instructions

11 But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. **12** Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses. **13** And I charge you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, **14** that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

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Pause For Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes to pause and reflect, write down questions or observations on the passage or video with Pastor Jonathan, and make connections to your own life or what you’ve been learning in your own faith journey.

You may want to choose a question or two below to really get people thinking about something you’d like to spend some good discussion time on. I have put a star by my favorite questions.

Questions for Discussion:

(Choose your favorites ahead of time that you think will benefit your group the most)

1. Verse 9 says, “But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction.” How have you seen this in your own life or those around you?
2. Do you think that Scripture teaches that temptation is a sin - or is acting upon that temptation where it crosses the line?
 - i. Leader note: Temptation is not sin (Jesus was tempted, but perfect).
3. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, “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.” Has this felt true in your own life – or has it felt like there was no way out in certain cases?
4. *If you feel comfortable sharing, what are the ways you are most commonly tempted?
 - i. Leader suggestions: if you’d like to help the conversation get going, share some of these examples. Apathy? Not being 100% truthful? Envy? Financial greed? Materialism? Pride? Self-centeredness? Sexual lust? Laziness? Anger? Bitterness?
 - ii. It can also help to lead with your own temptations.
5. *What are ways that you have found to overcome sin or not give into it?
 - i. Leader notes/thoughts:
 1. Best way to conquer temptation is to fall more in love with Jesus. 1 Chronicles 16:11 says “Look to the Lord and His strength...”. If you want help, turn to Jesus and fall more in love with His ways than the ways of the world.

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2. Accountability is vital. James 5:16 says, “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” Want to find healing? Confess to your friend. It’s step 1.
3. Boundaries. What are the boundaries or checks you need to make in your life/mind to ensure you don’t fall into sin from temptation?
6. *If you have fallen into habitual sin at some point in your life, how have you been able to come out from it?
7. *Have you ever felt awful after giving in to temptation? How do you make sure you move from guilt to hope rather than from guilt to shame?
8. In Romans 7:15, Paul says, “I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate.” Do you ever feel this way? Does it help to know even Paul felt this way? What do you do with this feeling?

Closing Leader Notes:

James 4:7 says “So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

- Pray that your group would not be overcome by temptation, but instead could be a people of love, purity, sound minds, and to be conquerors of any sin struggles.
- Also, tell people that if there is a struggle they didn’t feel comfortable sharing with the whole group that you’d encourage them to share it with someone they can trust. Make yourself available if you’re comfortable with this. Pastoral care is available too. If someone would like help with pornography, have him or her get in touch with Pastor Bob, Jonathan, or Ben.

Thanks for being an awesome life group leader!