

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION



AND OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

The Week of July 11, 2021 Who Am I? Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **About Christ:** (Hebrews 1:1-4) I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became man, lived a perfect life, died for sinners, rose from the dead and now reigns at the right hand of the Father.
- **Identity:** (John 1:12) I have worth and value because I am made in God's image and am His child. As His child, I live my life to bring glory to God and to serve His purposes.
- **About Humanity:** (John 3:16) I believe all people are fallen in sin, but loved by God who has taken the initiative to save humanity from its sinfulness.

Intro Questions

- Tell about a time you disobeyed your parents and it blew up in your face.
- Can you share a time you were tempted and resisted (Bible Study appropriate!)?
- Can you share a time you were tempted and gave in (Bible Study appropriate!)? What were the consequences?

The First Temptation

Read Genesis 2:15-17 (CSB)

The Lord God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die."

Read Genesis 3:1-6 (CSB)

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You can't eat from any tree in the garden'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit from the trees in the garden. But about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, 'You must not eat it or touch it, or you will die.'"

"No! You will certainly not die," the serpent said to the woman. "In fact, God knows that when you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

- What was the command God gave?
- What did Eve say the command was?
- What did Satan say the command was?
- What was Adam doing during all of this?
- What were the strategies that Satan used to tempt Eve?

Read 1 John 2:16-17 (CSB)

For everything in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions – is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.

Read Proverbs 7:22-23 (CSB)

He follows her impulsively like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer bounding toward a trap until an arrow pierces its liver, like a bird darting into a snare – he doesn't know it will cost him his life.

- How does the first temptation show the truth of these verses?
- Is temptation a big, one-time deal or an ongoing issue?

Read James 1:13-15 (CSB)

No one undergoing a trial should say, "I am being tempted by God," since God is not tempted by evil, and he himself doesn't tempt anyone. But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and

enticed by his own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

- How significant is it that God is not the one tempting us?
- What or who is tempting us?

Read James 4:-6-10 (CSB)

But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

- How does God identify the one who resists and the one He extends grace to?
- What is the result of God being God and you being you as given at the end of this passage?

Who Are We?

Read John 1:12 (CSB)

But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name,

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 (CSB)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

Read Romans 5:11 (NLT)

So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

- What is our identity according these verses?

Jesus's Baptism

Read Matthew 3:13-17 (CSB)

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?"

Jesus answered him, "Allow it for now, because this is the way for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John allowed him to be baptized.

When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased."

- Why was Jesus baptized?

- What did God mean when He declared that Jesus was His beloved son?
- What does it mean when the Bible calls us children of God?

Read Romans 10:9-10 (CSB)

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.

Read Romans 6:1-4 (CSB)

What should we say then? Should we continue in sin so that grace may multiply? Absolutely not! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Or are you unaware that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

Read Romans 3:10-12 (CSB)

..as it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away; all alike have become worthless. There is no one who does what is good, not even one.

- What is our identity by nature?
- What is our identity when we accept Christ?
- What are the steps to accepting Christ shown in these verses?

Jesus Temptation

Read Matthew 4:1-11 (CSB)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. Then the tempter approached him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

He answered, "It is written: Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city, had him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written:

*He will give his angels orders concerning you ,
and they will support you with their hands
so that you will not strike
your foot against a stone."*

Jesus told him, "It is also written: Do not test the Lord your God."

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. And he said to him, "I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me."

Then Jesus told him, *“Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.”*

Then the devil left him, and angels came and began to serve him.

- Read this passage out loud.
- Have a volunteer from your group retell it in their own words.
- Thank them for retelling and then ask the group if they missed anything.
- What does this passage teach us about Jesus?
- **We'll be looking at this passage more closely in the next three weeks.**

“Temptation is a choice between trusting God as my Father or suspecting God as my foe.”

Next Steps

- Download the church app and check out the Reading Plan. This will guide you through 21 days of scriptures all about our identity in Christ!

Enjoying Conversation Guides? Want to be a part?

Come join the Writer's Team, Wednesday Nights at 7:45pm in Room 4.

Email Pastor Doug Bedgood if you'd like more info, dbedgood@icelebration.org.