

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION



AND OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

The Week of July 18, 2021 Whose Got Me? Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **About the Bible:** (2 Timothy 3:16-17) I believe the Bible is God's Word. It is true and authoritative and I am committed to living according to its principles and commands.
- **I study God's Word:** (2 Timothy 2:15) I consistently study the Bible to know God, the truth and find direction for my daily life.
- **I am Confident:** (1 Peter 1:3-5) Because my hope for the future is placed on the steadfastness of God and the trustworthiness of his promises, I live with confidence.

Intro Questions

- Share a time when you saw God meet your needs in a cool way.
- Share a time when you felt vulnerable or weak.
- Is it easier to fall to temptation when you needs are not being met?
- What are common distractions that divert our attention from God?

The Very Real Battle

Read Matthew 4:1-4 (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."

Read this quote from Pastor David:

"All of history is a story of spiritual warfare. This spiritual war began in Genesis 3 when Satan tempted and led humanity to sin. It opened the door to the reality of spiritual darkness and death. From that moment until now, this spiritual battle has raged."

- How are Jesus and Satan much more than just two individuals interacting in the physical realm?
- What would a forty day fast do to an individual physically?
 - Read Acts 13:2-3 (CSB)

As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off.

- What did it do for the church leaders in Antioch spiritually?
- Relate Jesus' temptation with Adam and Eve's in Genesis. How are they similar, how are they different?
- How does dependence on God as our good Father instead of quick self-gratification play into Jesus's victory and our victory?
- How are spiritual forces (angels and demons) impacting our world today? What other, non-spiritual things, might we ascribe the impact of these spiritual forces to?
- How is this representative of spiritual warfare we face every day?

Trial Vs Temptation

Read James 1:2-4, 12-18 (CSB)

Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. 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.

- What is the difference between a trial and a temptation?
- What is purpose of God allowing trials to come in our life?
- How does evil use temptations in our life and for what purpose?

Winning the Battle

Read Ephesians 6:10-18 (CSB)

Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and by his vast strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this darkness, against evil, spiritual forces in the heavens. For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand. Stand, therefore, with truth like a belt around your waist, righteousness like armor on your chest, and your feet sandaled with readiness for the gospel of peace. In every situation take up the shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints. Pray at all times in the Spirit with every prayer and request, and stay alert with all perseverance and intercession for all the saints.

- Who (or what) is the real enemy?
- Why do you think Paul used military terms?
- What is the essential armor? What is offensive and defensive? Where is the battle waged?
- Putting on the Belt of Truth means knowing the truth about who we are and who God is from a biblical standpoint. What have you learned so far about God and yourself?

Read 1 Peter 5:8-9 (CSB)

Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. Resist him, firm in the faith, knowing that the same kind of sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world.

- Why do you think Peter used predator to describe Satan?
- How are we able to overcome and become victorious?

Read 1 John 4:4 (CSB)

You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

- Although we face a spiritual battle, what does 1 John 4:4 tells us about God's supremacy?

Read this quote from Pastor David:

*"You are being tempted right now. I am being tempted right now. Always being tempted in our lives. Most of the time we don't even realize it. I am always a moment away from coveting something I do not have, lusting after someone I should respect, insulting someone I should honor as fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God. I am always being tempted to take the shortcut to financial success. I am always being tempted to deal with the laws of our country hypocritically, demanding a great degree of compliance from others to laws I approve of while completely ignoring the laws I don't like. I am always tempted to place my own wants over other people's legitimate needs. I am always longing for recognition that rightfully belongs elsewhere. As Russell Moore says in his book, *Tempted and Tried*, '...you are on the verge of wrecking your life, especially if you don't know it.'"*

- How is recognizing the battle for what it is the first step in victory?
- How easy is it to self-deceived?
- How is the Bible used by the Spirit in our lives according to Hebrews 4:12?

Consumption Vs Contentment

Underlying Jesus' temptation and ours is the question, "Do I trust that God is a good Father Who will provide for my needs, or do I need to take control and satisfy my desires?"

Read Ecclesiastes 4:8 (CSB)

There is a person without a companion, without even a son or brother, and though there is no end to all his struggles, his eyes are still not content with riches. "Who am I struggling for," he asks, "and depriving myself of good things?" This too is futile and a miserable task.

Read 1 Timothy 6:9-10 (CSB)

But those who want to be rich fall into temptation, a trap, and many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and by craving it, some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Read Philippians 4:10-13 (CSB)

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because once again you renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity to show it. I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself. I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through him who strengthens me.

Read Philippians 4:19 (CSB)

And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- According to these passages, is trusting God as your friend, not your foe, the secret to true contentment?

- What are the signs in your life that let you know whether you are trusting God or something else?
- How does gratitude to God our Good Father for everything destroy our pride and self exaltation?
- How does generosity in response to God our Provider destroy our greed for more?
- How does self-control from the Spirit of God destroy our thirst for self gratification?

Next Steps

1. Be Filled: Ask God to fill you with His Spirit
 2. Be Prepared: Pray “on” the Spiritual Armor (Eph. 6:10-20).
 3. Be Confident: Turn anxieties, worries, concerns, needs into prayer (Phil. 4:6-8).
 4. Be Aware: Recognize Satan’s strategies and in Christ resist Him (1 Peter 5:8-9).
 5. Be Gone: Look for the way of escape from temptation (1 Cor. 10:13).
 6. Be Grateful: Spend a day thanking God for every little or big thing that He has blessed you with (James 1:17).
 7. Be Generous: Break greed’s grip by seeking God’s direction on how to use the resources He has blessed you with to carry out His purposes (Heb. 13:5).
 8. Be Self-controlled: Ask God to fill you with His Spirit and give you the ability to say no to wrong desires (Phil. 2:13).
- 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.