

## Topics of the Bible ~ Temptation ~ Discussion Questions

1. How do you feel when you give into temptation? A) Guilty, B) Frustrated, C) Hope God isn't watching, D) Enjoy the moment, E) Pray for forgiveness.
2. Does God ever tempt us? (James 1:13)
3. Does God ever test us? (James 1:2-3) How do you respond? Do you say, "praise the Lord" when your golf ball sails into the woods?
4. What are the three ways in which we are tempted?
  - A. James 1:14 \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. 1 Thessalonians 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Matthew 18:7 \_\_\_\_\_. What are some ways that the world tempts us?
    1. \_\_\_\_\_
    2. \_\_\_\_\_
    3. \_\_\_\_\_
    4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is tempted? A) Everyone, B) Sinners, C) Weak people, D) Other \_\_\_\_\_  
When you are tempted does God help? (1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Peter 2:9))
6. How is a temptation different from a trial?
7. How does Jesus tell us to deal with temptation? (Matthew 26:41)
8. Is temptation a sin? Was Jesus tempted? (Matthew 4:1-11)
9. Can believers "fall" into temptation, i.e., as a result of the original fall of Adam are there some temptations we are unable to resist? (1 Thessalonians 4:8)
10. Is it generally best to run away from temptation? (2 Timothy 2:22)
11. How can we respond wisely to temptation?
  - A. Focus on the big picture.
  - B. Remember that God is faithful (1 Corinthians 10:13)
  - C. Rely on the power of the Holy Spirit (Philippians 4:13, Acts 1:8a)
  - D. Set your mind on things above (Colossians 3:2, 1 John 2:15-17)
  - E. Identify areas of weakness; know your limitations.
  - F. Recognize times of weakness. Remember **HALT**: don't allow yourself to become too **Hungry, Angry, Lonely, or Tired**.
  - G. Build a defense by reading God's word. (Joshua 1:8)
  - H. Pray in advance. Ask the Lord to build spiritual principles into your life. (Psalm 119:11)

## Topics of the Bible ~ Temptation ~ Questions for Small Groups

1. Are you more likely to sin when alone or when with certain people? Do you give in to peer pressure? When are you most vulnerable? (Psalm 141:4)
2. Where are you most likely to feel tempted? At home? In classes? On the job? Somewhere else? Can you avoid this place? (Proverbs 22:5) If not, how can you best deal with the temptation?
3. What are your excuses for sinning? Do you justify your sin? How? Does it seem it “just happens?”
4. Have you even justified or rationalized giving in to temptation by saying:  
(a) Everybody’s doing it, (b) No one is perfect, (c) God will forgive me, so I might as well do it, (d) God wants me to have a little fun, (e) I didn’t know it was wrong, (f) Maybe there are some benefits in committing the sin, (g) something else.
5. Do you realize you are rebelling against God when you give into temptation?
6. What is your thought process before you give into temptation (before you sin)? What are your very first steps? How can you avoid taking them?
7. Do you truly believe God allows you to be tempted only within the limits of what he knows you can bear? (1 Corinthians 10:13)
8. If God provides a way out (above verse), why do we so often give in?
9. What does Ephesians 6:10-11 reveal about how believers can stand against the Devil’s schemes?
10. Read Romans 6:11-12. Does this change your perspective about your ability to resist sin? How?
11. Did you ever consider that after we commit a sin, Satan wants us to feel so guilty that we alienate ourselves from God? And when we alienate ourselves from God, it will produce spiritual death—the same kind of spiritual death James talked about in James 2:26 – As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.
12. There are three steps in resisting temptation:
  - A) Understand that temptation is an enticement to sin against the will of God
  - B) Predetermine in our minds that we will not give in to it.
  - C) Pray, call on, and rely upon the strength of God.