

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Not in a small group? Contact us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

Ice Breaker: What food is the most tempting to you when you are hungry? When you're not even hungry?

Talk It Over Together: *(Note: If your group is only meeting bi-weekly, cover the first 2 discussion questions of each week. If time allows, go back to the remaining questions.)*

1. Read Matthew 3:13, 16-17 and 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, followed by Matthew 4:1 and 2 Corinthians 12:7 Pastor Tom explained that even though Jesus and Paul had profound spiritual experiences, they were not immune from temptation. Have you known someone who has experienced a spiritual "high" and then was immediately tempted? How did they respond to the temptation? How does awareness of the devil's timing in these events help you prepare for future temptation?
2. Pastor Tom talked about how the enemy tempts us—through our human weaknesses (flesh), our popularity/notoriety (the world) and the devil. Read and discuss Matthew 4:2-3, 5-6, 8-9. Describing Jesus' final temptation, Pastor Tom quoted Tasker when he said, escaping the cross was "the greatest and most persistent temptation" Jesus faced. Have you considered how difficult this must have been for Jesus? How does Jesus' obedience encourage you? Have you ever faced a difficult temptation and overcome it based on His (or someone else's) obedience?
3. Pastor Tom used a quote from Morris when he shared how we can overcome temptation; "Throughout these temptations no special resource is open to Jesus. He met the temptation in the same way as we must, by using Scripture, and He won the victory." Read Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12. Do you believe that God's Word is "alive and powerful?" Describe a time when knowing God's Word impacted your life in a powerful, life-changing way.
4. In Pastor Tom's conclusion, he stated, "Our spiritual lives may be weak and ineffective because we have not embraced becoming self-feeding Christ-followers and do not ... make (God's Word) a priority in our lives." Read and discuss 1 John 2:14. What do you find most difficult about becoming a "self-feeding Christ-follower?" What is easiest? Share with one another tools/methods that have helped you in this area.

PERSONAL READING

As you read through each passage, consider answering 3 simple questions: What did I learn about God from what I read? What did I learn about myself? What is God asking me to do as a result?

Day 1: Hebrews 4:14-16

Day 2: Psalm 51

Day 3: 1 Corinthians 10:13

Day 4: James 1:2-4, 12-15

THE FIGHT OF YOUR LIFE



MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“MORE THAN WORDS”

JUNE 15TH, 2014



"More Than Words"

June 15, 2014

By **Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen**

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

...the most common form of spiritual warfare every Christ-follower faces daily is

t _____.

Note I Peter 5:8-9a

1. _____ Are We Tempted?

...temptation is not limited to the "right" e _____ to impact us
(*note Matthew 3:13, 16, 17, and II Corinthians 12:1-4, 7*).

If Jesus and Paul could be tempted in the context of deeply profound spiritual experiences, we're certainly not _____ from temptation when we have special spiritual experiences.

We can also be tempted when we're completely following the Lord and doing His _____ (*note Matthew 4:1*).

Remember: temptation is not _____.

Note Mark 1:12-13a again and James 1:13 with Genesis 22

The test for Jesus in Matthew 4 is what kind of _____ would He be...

Satan tempts us to overcome us with _____ and cause us to fall.

The devil's temptation of Jesus was to _____ Him from His mission.

The Father's purpose for testing His Son was to _____ the purpose of His mission...

Note what Jesus is doing when He is _____ (*note Matthew 4:2*).

2. _____ Are We Tempted?

- A. Enemy of the f _____ (*note Matthew 4:2-3*) - Satan is not trying to make Jesus doubt He is the Son of God ("If you are..." means "S _____ you are..."...he's trying to get Jesus to prove He is and use His divine power for His own desires and not the Father's _____.
Note Matthew 4:11. Jesus didn't listen to His stomach or His _____, but to the Father (*note Matthew 4:4*).

- B. Enemy of the w _____ (*note Matthew 4:5-6*) - "Be _____, draw a crowd, prove the Father will take care of You." Satan even used the _____ to "proof-text" this temptation. Jesus _____ Scripture not to get His own way, but to follow His Father's way (*note Matthew 4:7*).
- C. The Enemy (*note Matthew 4:8-9; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 11:15b; 19:16*) - the evil one is tempting Jesus to take a spiritual s _____. To escape the cross was "the greatest and most p _____ temptation" Jesus faced (Tasker). The evil one offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world without a _____. Jesus' _____ shows and confirms what kind of Messiah He will be (*note Matthew 4:10*).

3. O _____ Temptation

"Throughout these temptations no special _____ is open to Jesus. He met the temptation in the same way as we must, by using Scripture, and He won the victory." (Morris)

Note Ephesians 6:17

Jesus quotes _____ times from Deuteronomy (between Deuteronomy 6:13-8:3).

Scriptures kept the Father's _____ before Jesus.

God's power is awesome...but too often Christ-followers _____ for God's power in the wrong places.

God's power comes through and is on the basis of what God has _____ (*note Hebrews 4:12*).

Our spiritual lives may be weak...because we have not embraced becoming s _____ - f _____ Christ-followers and do not cherish His Word and make it a priority in our lives.

We're in the fight of our lives:

Note I John 2:14

- Do we regularly (daily) read/listen to God's Word?
- Do we base all our decisions (large and small) on what God _____?
- _____ in spiritual warfare comes as we learn to overcome temptation through the power of God's Word (*note Matthew 4:11*).

I will accept the challenge to read/listen to God's Word at least 5 minutes a day.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!