



STUDY GUIDE March 26, 2023

Message Series: Plot Twist

Message Title: Overcoming Every Temptation

Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

What is your biggest food temptation?

Pray:

Dear Lord, we praise You for Your power and for Your might, but also for the fact that You are approachable, and You are our friend. We acknowledge that You love us not because of our own effort or our goodness but because of Your goodness and Your mercy. Thank you that we can seek You and find You when we really look for You. Open our hearts to hear from You and speak to us in a way that we can clearly understand. Thank You in advance for all You are going to do in and through us as we meet and study Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Get Started: (20 min.)

- Speaking in general terms only, what are some of the ways that we as human beings can be tempted?
- What are some of the thought processes we might have when faced with a temptation?

"Nobody gets a pass on temptation. The voices call to all of us - different voices for different people, to be sure, but they are there. Voices that call us to deceive our spouse, disrespect our parents, distort the truth, disown our identity, dishonor a friend, distance ourselves from God. Everyone is tempted. Even Jesus. Which is our plot twist today. What made Jesus remarkable was not his perfection in the lack of temptation, but his perfection in spite of it. In case you don't know, Jesus WAS tempted... And His victory over temptation can be the roadmap for ours." – Pastor Brian Hughes

Read Luke 4:1-13.

- Pastor Brian pointed out that the enemy tempted Jesus by appealing to appetite, approval, and ambition. Which of these plights has the highest temptation factor for you? Explain.

Read Ephesians 6:12 and James 1:13-15.

- What are the sources of temptation according to these verses?

Read Luke 22:40, 1 Corinthians 10:13 and 1 John 4:4.

- Based on these scriptures, what are some strategies we can use to deal with temptation and what are some truths we can hold on to?
- Share a time when you faced a temptation but you were able to overcome it. What were the circumstances and what did you do?

Watch and Discuss Video (running time 12 minutes, 20 minute discussion)

Pastor Brian said that in each of the ways the devil tempts Jesus he's actually calling into question Jesus' identity. He does the same with us. Brian shared the need for a strategy. The following actions will help guard us against temptation (James 4:7-10):

1. We must claim our identity as a child of God.
 2. Fight against the temptation. (James 4:7)
 3. Put tools in place to guard against temptation. (Covenant Eyes)
 4. Situate people in your life who will ask hard questions and provide accountability.
 5. Humble yourself through remorse and confession when you fall short.
- How do you personally fight against temptation? What mechanisms do you have in place to resist temptation?

Reflect and Commit: (20 min.)

"Each of these three temptations critically and not accidentally go after Jesus' very identity. If the enemy can get Jesus to compromise who he is, then he can easily affect what he does. That's the same tactic the enemy uses with you and me. If you don't know who you are, you have no grounding to resist the temptation that is coming at you. But when we know that we belong to God as a follower of his Son Jesus Christ, we have solidified our identity and have what we need to avoid temptation, just like Jesus taught us to do. Look, you are enough. If you don't know who you are, you have no grounding to resist the temptation that is coming at you. But when we know that we belong to God as a follower of his Son Jesus Christ, we have solidified our identity and have what we need to avoid temptation, just like Jesus taught us to do. You are enough. Just like you are. You don't need all the exterior trappings or more achievements or the approval of people or a new identity. You have an identity - whether you know it or not. And you don't determine it and people around you don't determine it. God does. If you'll ground yourself on who you are in Jesus, then you, like Jesus, can overcome every temptation that comes your way. - Pastor Brian Hughes

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:6.

- How does knowing that you are a "new creation" when you accept Christ affect how you handle temptation?
- What spiritual disciplines could you incorporate into your life to help you successfully overcome temptation?

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Romans 8:37 ...we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

Pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, we are so grateful that our identity is in You and that we become a new creation when we accept Christ. Thank you for giving us everything we need to overcome temptation and to live the life You have planned for us. And when we do mess up, You have already made a way for our forgiveness through Your Son Jesus. Help us to grab hold of the things You have provided for us in Your Word, Your Son, and in Your Spirit so that we can be conquerors and honor You in every way. It's in Christ's name we pray. Amen.