

Growth Group Discussion Questions For Our Growth Groups

“Big Moments For Jesus Followers”- Part 4

“When You Find Jesus’ Answer To Temptation & Lingering Sin In Your Life”

Week of September 26, 2021

Summary- *Big Moments For Jesus Followers* sets the tone for how we live and what we expect to do to build the Kingdom of God going forward.

Last week it was about the first time you stood-up and identified yourself publically as a follower of Jesus... your Baptism. This week, we discovered Jesus’ answer to temptation and lingering sin. It’s a big moment when you discover that truth!

We all suffer from these... and knowing what to do changes our future! The commonality of our temptations, and the promise that you will not be tempted beyond what you can bear or endure is comforting.

But, finding a way out of them is what we need. And that’s where Jesus enters the picture. He says He will provide the way out or through these life challenges!

If that is so, it is clear what we need to do. The question is... will we take His way out or not? Why is that so hard? Why do we stay stuck in our temptations and sins? Should be a good discussion!

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. What is lingering sin? Why is it a problem for believers?

2. How would you describe temptation? How does it make you feel?

GOING DEEPER

LIVING WITH TWO NATURES INSIDE OF US

1. Understanding our “condition” as Jesus followers may help us deal with the battle we face against sin and lingering temptations. Read the following verses and discuss the questions that follow.

Galatians 5:16 “So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. **17** The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.”

- a. This passage indicates that even after becoming a Christian, when the Holy Spirit has come into your life, there is still an internal battle for influence happening in you. What are the two opposing forces described in this passage?
- b. What is the sinful nature referring to? Why is your sinful nature so powerful?
- c. Why are the Spirit and your sinful nature constantly fighting?

Romans 7:21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. **22** I love God’s law with all my heart. **23** But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

- a. Look at verse 23. Notice that’s Paul’s struggle with sin and temptation was not because he did not love the Lord or the Word of God. He says he still has “sin” in him. Discuss how this “sin in you” affects your life as a Believer?
- b. So, how does God handle your “sinning” when you become a Jesus follower? (Check out 1 John 1:9 to help with your answer)

LOOKING FOR “THE WAY OUT” OF EVERY SIN AND/OR TEMPTATION SITUATION

1. Read the following verse and discuss the questions below:

1 Corinthians 10:13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

- a. What do we learn from this passage about temptations?

- b. What do you think it means when Paul writes, *“And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand”*?
- c. The good news about temptations and lingering sin, is highlighted on the last phrase of this verse: *“When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.”* So, what is our responsibility to deal with lingering sin and temptation if Jesus is going to *“show us a way out”* of each one when they hit us?
- d. If Jesus is going to show us a way out of the sin or temptations we face, why do we often **NOT** take His way out but instead keep struggling with our lingering sins and temptations?
- e. We talked about **predetermined obedience** as a way to keep our eyes open and looking for Jesus’ “way out” of any and every temptation we might face. Check out the following verses:

Psalm 119:9 “How can a young person live a clean life? By carefully reading the map of your Word. I’m single-minded in pursuit of you; don’t let me miss the road signs you’ve posted. I’ve banked your promises in the vault of my heart so I won’t sin myself bankrupt.” (The Message Bible)

(Predetermined obedience means... I already know what I will do when faced with life’s challenges and temptations. For the Christians, it means I’ve decided to take God’s way (His Words & teaching) rather than let my feelings, habits, weaknesses or culture determine my responses.)

- a. How can knowing and having the Word of God as a resource in your life help you be prepared to **take His way out**? Discuss some struggles we face below:
1. Anger- Eph.4:26-27
 2. Fear- Isa. 41:10
 3. Excessive drinking and substance abuse- 1 Pet.4:3; Eph.5:18
 4. Sexual sin- Eph. 5:3
 5. Laziness- Prov. 24:33
 6. Withhold forgiveness- Matt. 6:14-15
 7. Others