

MONDAY: Temptation Has Three Parts

When Satan came to Eve—what did he get her to think about the fruit? Read the two passages below. (The numbers are added to show you something.)

In Genesis 3: 6 we read that, “The woman saw that the tree’s fruit was g_____ to eat and p_____ to l_____ at. She also saw that it would make a person wise.”

In 1 John 2:16 we read, “Here is what people who belong to this world do.

1. They try to satisfy what their sinful d_____ want to do.
2. They long for what their sinful eyes l_____ at.
3. They take p_____ in what they have and what they do.

All of this comes from the world. None of it comes from the Father.”

Put the number (from the lines of the verses above) to match the statements below.

- _____ When we think something is good to look at—our eyes long for it.
- _____ When we are wise in our own eyes—that is selfish pride.
- _____ If something is good to eat, we think it will satisfy us.

Whether the temptation comes from Satan (like it did in Genesis 3) or from the corruption of the world around us (like 1 John 2:16 talks about)—the bait only works if it is something we desire.

Think about all the things people turn to looking for something that will

- 1) Satisfy their longings. 2) Look good to them. 3) Make them wise.

God designed us for TRUE satisfaction, beauty, and wisdom—which HE provides! When we turn away from Him, we go looking for imitations which don’t work to really satisfy us and which eventually can destroy us.

What are things you have seen people turn to in an attempt to find satisfaction, beauty, and wisdom?

We may think Eve was silly to look to an apple (or whatever type of fruit it was) for satisfaction, beauty, and wisdom—but how often do we look to an Apple (or some other brand of computer or phone) looking for the same? Technology can draw us closer to God (think YouBible or PrayerMate) or pull us away. What are ways you’ve seen technology pull people from God?

TUESDAY: Temptation Leads to Death

Read James 1:13 about Temptation.

Will God ever tempt you to do evil? _____

How do you know that? _____

Someone who doesn't have a lot of money may think—if only God had made me rich, I wouldn't be tempted to steal. When they think that—they are blaming God for their temptation to steal. God is NOT tempting them. Lacking funds can be a great motivation to earn the funds.

We all desire to think things, say things, or do things that do not please God. That's what sin is—anything I think, say, or do that does not please God.

Read James 1:14-15

What is it that tempts me to sin? _____

It's obvious that a fish's desire for a worm can cause him to be drawn away towards death. But what about sin? What are some ways a desire can lead us to sin and sin lead to death?

Instead of believing the lie that God is tempting you—here's the truth about God.

Read James 1:16-17

God doesn't tempt us. What does He do? _____

Take a look at 1 Corinthians 10:13.

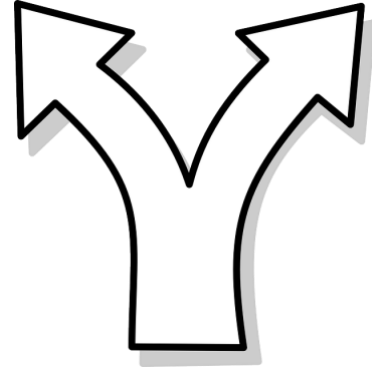
What does 1 Corinthians 10:13 tell us is true about the ways we are tempted?

1 Corinthians 10:13 tell us God is “f_____.”

What does 1 Corinthians 10:13 tell us God will give us?

Why would God give us a way to escape?

WEDNESDAY: Just Two Choices on the Shelf.



A camp named Ken Collier made up this little phrase—
“Just two choices on the shelf: pleasing God or pleasing self.”

This week we’ve talked about how we, like Adam and Eve, desired to please ourselves based on what we think will be satisfying to our own body, what will be beautiful to our own eyes, and what we think will make us wise in our own eyes.

Consider what these passages teach about where TRUE enjoyment and satisfaction come from.

The author of Psalm 16:11 said that in God he found the p_____ of l_____.

The author also said that God filled him with j_____ when he was with God. What did the author say he would be forever when he was with God (another way to say at God’s right hand)?

Have you thought that God could make you happy forever? _____

Did you know God cares about your happiness? _____

Sometimes we think we would be happy if only we could live life the way we want to. What does Proverbs 14:12 say about a way that appears to be right?

What choice have you seen someone make that they thought would make them happy, but turned out the opposite?

Songs and movies and friends may tell us to trust our hearts. Adam and Eve did that. How did that work out for them?

Adam and Eve looked to their own desires and trusted what they thought they could see with their own eyes. While looking at the fruit they missed seeing all the good of God Himself and all the good God had provided and would provide.

THURSDAY: Out of Order

If an elevator stops working, someone will probably put a sign on the door that reads **Out of Order**. We are used to seeing broken things in our world. It is Out of Order.

Imagine waiting in line for a ride at an amusement park. If someone cuts in line ahead of others, others will get upset. We know it's not fair when someone cuts in. Those taking cuts are **out of order**.

When Adam and Eve sinned, they got out of order. God is the one in charge, but they decided not to follow Him but to set His orders aside and do their own will.

Everything God had created was IN order, but by choosing to go their own way they got out of order. Now—we live on a busted world. It is as if the entire world has an “out of order” sign on it. Hurricanes, earthquakes, shootings, death—God didn't design it to be this way. It is out of order.

What are some things you've seen lately that provide evidence that the world is out of order?

Not only is the brokenness of the world apparent in disasters and wars far away, but the brokenness affects each of us. Broken friendships, broken homes, disease and death—all of these are things we face that remind us that our world is broken.

Good news! God is putting things back in order. He is doing that person by person. His plan is never to make people change, but to invite them into connection with Him.

Copy Jeremiah 29:11.

When we think of hope and future, we may think that God should do things in this life exactly like we want him to. Maybe give us lots of money, give us a great person to date and marry, and give us beautiful children who never get sick or have problems. If we were to get the ideal life, we would not look to God and God is a greater gift than money or family. The hope and future is that God will restore us to be all we could be without sin. And He will restore the earth to be all it would have been without sin. What areas of your life do you most hope for God to put back in order?

FRIDAY: Reflection

What were the three areas that temptation fall into? (Genesis 3:6; 1 John 2:16)

Was Satan trying to help Adam and Eve or destroy them? _____

What does temptation lead to? _____

Is anything ever going to tempt you that is totally different than anyone else has ever had to face?
What does 1 Corinthians 10:13 say about that?

What are the “two choices on the shelf”?

How have you seen that the world is out of order?

What caused the world to be out of order?

There was a time when people believed the sun and planets revolved around the earth. Then they found out the earth revolves around the sun. The earth is not the center of our solar system, the sun is. For God’s order to be restored in each of us—we need to understand that we are not the center (most important thing)—God is! What have you noticed about people who think they are the most important thing in their lives?
