

## LHCF Sermon Discussion Guide

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### Connecting with God: The Lord's Prayer—Part 6A The Importance of Protection

*“And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from the evil one”* Matt. 6:13

#### 1. Facts about temptation

- **God never tempts anyone**

*“When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed.”* James 1:13-14

- **Temptation is not a sin**

*“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.”* Matt. 4:1

- **Yielding to temptation is a choice**

*“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.”* 1 Cor. 10:13

#### 2. The “way out” of temptation

- **Develop a \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle**

*“...obey only the Holy Spirit's instructions. He will tell you where to go and what to do, and then you won't always be doing the wrong things your evil nature wants you to. For we naturally love to do evil things that are just the opposite from the things that the Holy Spirit tells us to do; and the good things we want to do when the Spirit has his way with us are just the opposite of our natural desires. These two forces within us are constantly fighting each other to win control over us...”* Gal. 5:16-17

- **Identify what makes you \_\_\_\_\_**

*“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”* Matt. 26:41

#### Small Group Life:

The Bible is filled with the idea that a believer is at war. But remember that our enemy is Satan and our sinful nature.

Remember the battle is a spiritual battle...like the way Message Bible describes it: Eph 6:10-14 *“God is strong, and He wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels. Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet...”*

Begin by taking the quiz on the last page that will help you determine how strong or vulnerable you are right now!

#### Facts about temptation:

- God never tempts anyone read Matt 6:13 & James 1:13-14
  - Matt 6:13 in our English Bible is perplexing... remember the rule in Bible interpretation that says we understand what's obscure by what's clear. Tertullian 192 A.D. – African theologian said about this verse “far be the thought that the Lord should seem to tempt as if He were either ignorant of the limits of someone's faith or else eager to overthrow that faith”.
  - The James 1 passage is very clear. In other words, the notion that God would tempt people to do evil would deny the nature of God and implicate Him in the evil itself.
  - Remember God is always true to His nature.
- Temptation is not a sin:
  - Bible teaches *“(Jesus) understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin.”* Heb 4:15
  - Matt. 4:1 gives a direct account of several temptations that Jesus faced.
  - Facing temptation is life and no need to feel guilty...even Jesus experienced it.

- Remember yielding to temptation is a choice.
  - For the child of God, the power of sin and death is broken and we really have a choice about yielding.
  - You may say “I can’t help it, I’m weak”
  - We have a wonderful promise in 1 Cor. 10:13 that God will show you a way out and to be strong the way God wants us to be.
  - When we pray “lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil” God will answer with “a way out”.

### The “way out” of temptation:

- Develop a Spirit-led lifestyle
  - Why is the Christian life never meant to be lived apart from God's Spirit?
  - Jesus said shortly before His death *“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you... John 14:16-19*
  - Remember we have 2 natures... constantly fighting each other to win control over us. What are the 2 natures fighting each other?
  - The Spirit led life is one where we “obey only the HS instructions...” where to go, what to do.
  - When you get up and face your day...how do you perceive yourself? Try seeing yourself as a Jesus ambassador...pay attention to soda moments, calling out the gold in others, offering kindness and grace...God leads those who believe in their God-image and who make themselves available.
  - Remember God leads those who are willing and available.
- Identify what makes you vulnerable. Read Matt. 26:41
  - Matt 26 “in other words, you may be willing to overcome your temptation but will power is not enough”.
  - So what are we to watch for? The circumstances that make us vulnerable. Your vulnerabilities are actually connected to your S.H.A.P.E.
  - Some argue that our habits and hang-ups are about:
    - our genetics
    - nature vs. nurture
    - character vs. circumstances

- I believe they all play a role, but the point is you don’t really get to choose your temptations because they’re unique to your make-up.
- Why we’re perplexed that someone rages or has an addictive personality... we can’t relate because that’s not how my DNA operates.
- *Remember* everyone’s temptations are different because everyone is unique, one of a kind.
- Overcoming temptation is helped when we understand how our strengths and weaknesses are all a part of our S.H.A.P.E.  
Examples:
  - Goal-oriented person, vulnerable to frustration and anger (due to interruptions)
  - Kindness person, vulnerable to exhaustion (due to over-functioning)
  - Excellence person, vulnerable to worry/fear (due to procrastination waiting for a perfect start)
  - Gentle person, vulnerable to passivity (due to not wanting to risk hurting another’s feelings)
  - Mercy person, vulnerable to guilt (due to feeling they haven’t done enough to help another’s pain)
- Remember we all become vulnerable when we are filled with frustration/anger, exhaustion, worry/fear, passivity, guilt.
- Get to know your patterns and ask the following questions:
  - When? *Morning, late afternoon, lunch.*
  - Where? *Kitchen, business trip, 7-11, in front of your computer.*
  - Who? *Certain friends that lead me down the wrong path, when I’m alone, my parents.*
  - What? *Identify the temporary benefit. How? How do I feel just before the temptation.*
  - Why do this? *Talk with God about it, your spiritual partner, and makes plans to resolve the issues.*
  - Pro. 4:26-27 *“Plan carefully what you do... Avoid evil and walk straight ahead. Don’t go one step off the right way.*

**Mission or Ministry as appropriate** – Who can you invite to your group or minister to that are having trouble trusting God...don’t let them battle that alone, help them get in a small group and open up!

#### SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE ANSWER KEY:

Develop a **Spirit-led** lifestyle;  
Identify what makes you **vulnerable**

