



Small Group Guide: The Forgotten Jesus

“Temptation Island”

Icebreaker

Share about a time when you had to guard something valuable (a home, a secret, a relationship). What did that "guarding" look like practically?

Key Scripture

Matthew 6:13 (CSB)

"And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

Main Takeaways

1. Understanding the Difference: Test vs. Temptation

- A Test is sent by God to strengthen and build you up, not to break you down
- A Temptation is designed to lead you into sin and comes from the world, the flesh, or the devil
- God never tempts us to sin, but He does test us to increase our faith

2. The Three Enemies We Face

- The Devil - Creates systems of corruption in the world
- The World - The systems and culture that oppose God's ways
- The Flesh - Our internal sinful desires (the only one we have control over)

3. The Pattern of Sin (From Eve's Example)

1. What we hear
2. What we see
3. What we delight in
4. What we desire
5. What we take (the point of no return)
6. What we share with others

4. Taking Thoughts Captive

- The word "captive" is a military term - binding a prisoner of war
- This is an active, aggressive stance, not passive
- We must guard what we see and hear from the beginning
- The greatest sermon you'll ever preach is the one you preach to yourself every day

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

- Before this podcast, how would you have explained the difference between God testing us and Satan tempting us? Has your understanding changed?
- Read James 1:14 together. Why does James emphasize that temptation comes from our "own evil desire" rather than blaming the devil? What is he trying to teach us?
- Discuss the "driver's ed" illustration about the point of no return. Can you identify "exit points" in your own temptation patterns where you cross into the point of no return?

Going Deeper

- The podcast stated: "Attraction vs. Action" - whether discussing same-sex attraction, addiction, or any struggle. How does this distinction help us understand the difference between being tempted and sinning? Where might this distinction be misunderstood or misapplied?
- Review the pattern of sin from Eve's story (hear → see → delight → desire → take → share). Which stage is easiest for you to recognize in your own life? Which is hardest to catch before it progresses?
- "Taking every thought captive" (2 Corinthians 10:5) is described as a military action - binding and escorting away. What does this look like practically in your daily life? Share specific examples.
- The podcast says we can only control one of the three enemies: the flesh. How does this reality change the way you approach spiritual warfare?

Application and Action

- What are you "preaching to yourself" every day? Is your internal narrative based on God's truth or on lies? Share one negative message you repeatedly tell yourself.
 - Discuss the "house" illustration - your mind/heart as a house you're guarding on the porch. What thoughts or influences do you need to stop allowing "inside your house"?
 - What are the specific triggers (what you see, what you hear) that lead you toward temptation in your areas of struggle? How can you set up boundaries earlier in the pattern?
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Closing Prayer

- Thank God that He tests us to strengthen us, not to destroy us
- Confess areas where we've blamed God for temptation rather than taking responsibility
- Ask for the Holy Spirit's power to take thoughts captive this week
- Pray for specific struggles shared during the discussion
- Ask God to help us preach truth to ourselves daily