

TITLE: "The Testing Of Your Faith"

**OPENING QUESTION:** What's a 'small decision' you made once that ended up having a surprisingly big impact—good or bad?

### The Broad Impacts Of Every Moment Of Sin:

- Your **FUTURE**
- Your **LEGACY**
- Your **DRIFT**
- **OTHERS' Future**

**QUESTION:** Why do you think temptation often feels small in the moment but heavy in hindsight?

**QUESTION:** Which of the four impacts of sin do you tend to think about the least in the moment of temptation? Why?

### The 3 "Sin-sual" Temptations Of Life Offered From Satan:

**Temptation #1: To meet a legitimate need, in an ILLEGITIMATE WAY.**

**Matthew 4:3-4**— Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. During that time the devil came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread". Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

**QUESTION:** What legitimate needs do people commonly try to meet in illegitimate ways (comfort, approval, security, control, relief)? Why do legitimate needs make temptation feel justified?

**Temptation #2: Use God To Accomplish HIS OWN ENDS.**

**Matthew 4:5-7**— Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

**QUESTION:** What are modern ways people "test God" without realizing it? Why is it tempting to ask God to bless decisions we've already made instead of seeking His will first?

**QUESTION:** How can discernment help us tell the difference between faith and presumption?

**Temptation #3: A SHORTCUT that leads to doing the wrong thing, at the wrong time, the wrong way.**

**Matthew 4:8-11**— Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**QUESTION:** Why are shortcuts so appealing, especially when the goal itself is good? What are some warning signs that a shortcut may be leading us away from God’s timing or methods?

**QUESTION:** Jesus refused the crown without the cross. What does that teach us about God’s process versus Satan’s offers? Where are people today most tempted to sacrifice obedience for speed or success?

**Temptation is always a test of YOUR FAITH & not just your SELF-CONTROL.**

**QUESTION:** How does seeing temptation as a faith issue (not just a willpower issue) change how you approach it? What happens when we rely on self-control alone instead of trust in God?

**QUESTION:** How does believing God is good affect our ability to say no in the moment?

Remember to take the moment of **PAUSE** and remember 2 Things:

- **WHO YOU ARE**
- **WHOSE YOU ARE**

**QUESTION:** Why is pausing so difficult in moments of temptation? How does remembering who you are in Christ change the way you respond to temptation?

**QUESTION:** How does remembering whose you are affect the choices you make when no one is watching? How does remembering God’s past faithfulness strengthen trust in current temptation?

**Read: Deuteronomy 8:2-10, 17-18**

**Christians don’t live on fear or concern in the moment; they live on **God’s** promises.**

## CLOSING QUESTIONS:

**QUESTION:** What fears tend to drive temptation in your life—fear of lack, rejection, missing out, or losing control?

**QUESTION:** Which promise of God do you need to lean into more when temptation hits?

**QUESTION:** How can this group help one another live from God’s promises instead of momentary pressure?