

## LESSON SIX: HOW TO HANDLE TEMPTATION

### SESSION THREE

#### TO THE LEADER/FACILITATOR

To help you be more effective in leading your small-group discipleship study, we have prepared the **General Leadership Guide** to help steer you through the basics of facilitating a small-group study. If you have not already done so, please read the Guide.

#### ABOUT THIS SESSION

This is the last of three sessions dealing with the topic of temptation. In the previous two sessions, Pastor Rogers identified the subjects, sources, seats, and seasons of temptations. In this final session, he will discuss how we can subdue temptations.

#### PREPARING TO LEAD/FACILITATE THIS SESSION

Read through the **Session Guide**, and watch the video in advance of the session. Review the **Additional Scripture to Study** at the end of the **Guide**, along with the suggested **Personal Application**. Make sure you print out enough copies of the **Student Handout** which mirrors this **Leader's Guide**.

#### CONDUCTING THE SESSION

At the beginning of the session, read the **Introduction** to your group, then open discussion by asking the **Reflection Questions** before viewing the video segment. After viewing the video together, you may want to ask for comments before next leading your group through the **Amplification and Discussion** section. Feel free to add your own commentary if needed, but be cognizant of time and do not personally dominate the session. As you read through the **Amplification** section, engage your group by using the provided **Discussion Questions** to stimulate additional dialogue.

As you prepare to conclude the session, review the **Personal Application** for the week and encourage participants to engage in the suggested activity, as well as to read and study the **Additional Scriptures to Study** section. The **Additional Scriptures to Study** section contains questions or reflections intended to guide participants in their respective personal studies. This is best presented as a positive activity designed to help everyone in the group to grow spiritually through the week (as opposed to being presented as homework).

Allow participants to share prayer requests and lead your group in prayer using any of the suggested formats in the **General Leadership Guide**. Remember to provide an atmosphere of confidentiality within the group as participants share.

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### INTRODUCTION

In our previous two sessions, we identified the subjects (recipients) of temptations, the sources of temptations (the world, the flesh, and the devil), the seat of temptations (the body, soul and spirit), and the seasons of temptations in the life of believers. Those first two sessions prepared the groundwork for this, the third and final session in which Pastor Rogers explains how we can overcome and subdue temptations.

### OUR KEY PASSAGE

**1 Corinthians 10:12-13** “Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

**REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- Do you think it is of any importance that the temptations Christians face are common to everyone? Why?
- How do you handle temptations? What are some of the things you do to overcome temptations when they come your way?

**PRESENTATION OF VIDEO CLIP OF: “How to Deal with Temptations”****AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION**

When you understand how the devil is working and how the flesh is working and how the world is working, then you can understand how to get victory over these three areas. —Adrian Rogers

**Amplification:** As we learned in the previous sessions, temptations are common to all men (and women), and they originate from three specific sources, the world, the flesh, and the devil himself. We also learned that the sources of temptations attack three specific parts of our being, our soul, body, and spirit, and that in general, temptations tend to manifest themselves during certain periods of our lives. It is also important to remember that experiencing temptations is not by itself sinful; it is how we react to a temptation that is important. Pastor Rogers lists three very specific actions, faith, flight, and fight, which we should employ when facing each of the three sources of temptations.

When facing temptations that originate from an ungodly world system, we are to exercise our faith. In reality, it is our faith that is the foundation for the other two defenses, flight, and fight. Faith is essential to understanding that, “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape” (1 Corinthians 10:13). Without faith, we are most helpless while facing any temptation. Psalm 1 provides excellent guidance for combating temptations that come from worldly pursuits. It says, “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful” (Psalm 1:1). This Psalm provides advice for fighting against the pull of the world by refusing to act on advice from the ungodly, associate with sinners, or adopt a scornful (self-serving) attitude. The Psalm also tells us how to shore up our faith by meditating on God’s Word. It continues, “But his [the one who is blessed] delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night” (Psalm 1:2). Placing our faith in God, His Word, and the reality of His kingdom, is our best defense against assaults from the world.

**For Discussion:** What specific actions or practices do you think we can engage in to strengthen our faith in order to survive in a fallen and hostile world?

**Amplification:** When facing temptations of the flesh, the solution is to flee. A good practice is to identify “contingency responses” to various situations of potential temptation. In other words, think through the different possibilities of fleshly temptations that might be encountered, and then decide in advance what action to take. Job said, “I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman” (Job 31:1)? It is much easier to deal with a temptation of the flesh when you have already committed to an action of flight. It is also better to make decisions in advance to avoid situations or circumstances that would tend to put you in a place of temptation. The press publicly excoriated former Vice President Pence for declaring that he would not eat a meal alone with a woman other than his wife. His commitment is not only wise for appearances sake, but it is sensible to avoid temptation before it even germinates. Determining what to do in advance of a potential situation (i.e., “I will not allow myself to be alone with someone of the opposite sex other than my spouse”) deflects the awkwardness of trying to properly deal with temptation when caught by surprise.

**For Discussion:** How would you respond to the statement, “Life is 10% of what happens to you and 90% how you respond to what happens to you?” Do you agree, or disagree? Explain.

**Amplification:** Overcoming the third source of temptations, from the devil himself, again requires faith by knowing who you are in Christ. To believers, John writes, “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them [evil spirits], because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). When by faith we know we are secure in Christ and harbor no unconfessed or unrepented sin, we are able to wage war against the enemy with incredible power. When Peter confessed to Jesus, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God,” Jesus responded by saying, “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:16-18).

In the above statement, Jesus used a play on words to demonstrate an important theological truth. By using, *petra*, meaning “unmovable rock,” referring to Peter’s declaration of, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God,” He was acknowledging the weakness of man while declaring the power of Christ. It is by this unmovable rock, “*the Son of the Living God,*” that the church is being built, and “*the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*” This is not a defensive statement; it is a declaration of aggression against the very gates of Hell which have no power to stand against Christ and His church. We are given the power, the authority, and even the directive to fight the devil head on. We never need to fear, or to allow him any quarter in our lives through the power of Christ!

**For Discussion:** What are some of the things we can do in the church to help guard against temptations from the world, the flesh, and the devil?

**Amplification:** It has been said that when a wolf is confronted by an enemy, he first ascertains the earnestness of his opponent. If he detects even the slightest fear or hesitation on the part of the adversary, he will attack aggressively. However, if the adversary shows determination, the wolf will scurry away.

**For Discussion:** Why do you believe God allows us to face temptations? Have you found any value, or learned from any of the temptations you have experienced?

### PERSONAL APPLICATION

This week in your personal devotions, make it a point to acknowledge and give thanks for the power to overcome temptations that God has provided. Review your life’s history and ask the Lord to show you “*the way of escape*” He provided in times of temptation, whether you took the way, or not.

### GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

**Suggested group prayer** – “Lord, thank you for the grace you pour into our lives, even when we may fail you. We acknowledge our need for You, and ask for Your continued guidance in our lives.”

### ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES TO STUDY

**Read Psalm 1** and take note how assaults upon our lives and on our walks with God can be divided into three specific categories; our actions (walking in the counsel of the ungodly), our associations (standing in the path of sinners), and our attitudes (sitting in the seat of the scornful). Note also the remedy, (taking delight in the law of the Lord, and meditating on it day and night).

**Ephesians 6:12** “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

It is important to understand and to remember that temptations and enticements to sin all emanate from this fallen world and its prince, the devil. Notice the principle of “faith, flight, and fight” in the following verses.

**1 John 5:4-5** “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

**2 Timothy 2:22** “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

**Revelation 12:11** “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

#### ADDITIONAL READING RESOURCES

- Charles G. Finney, “Power from on High,” (CLC Publications, 1989)
- D.L. Moody, “Secret Power; The Secret of Success in Christian Life and Christian Work,” (Revell, 1881)
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### VIDEO PRESENTATION NOTES

## AMPLIFICATION AND DISCUSSION

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**For Discussion:** What are some of the things we can do in the church to help guard against temptations from the world, the flesh, and the devil?

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