

# Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Sept 16, 2018



Pastor Hook 8:15, Pastor Temple 9:30 & 10:55

## Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? Follow-ups from last Sunday's message, do you renounce evil?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener: What are some of the lamest excuses you have heard for doing the wrong things? How is offering an explanation of something different than offering an excuse for something?

## Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, 1 Corinthians 10:11-15. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

**<sup>11</sup> These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. <sup>12</sup> So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind.**

**And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. <sup>15</sup> I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say.**

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- How do these verses challenge "the devil made me do it" as an excuse or defense of one's actions?
- How do you understand the distinctions between the phrases "the devil tempts" and "the Lord tests?" What could be some of the benefits of being "tested?"
- Which of the "Five lies we tell ourselves" (by Jim Butler) do you believe are most damaging to Christians today and why? (see next page)

- 1- It couldn't happen to me (I'm too strong)
  - 2- I'm the only one (woe is me!)
  - 3- God has abandoned me
  - 4- I didn't have a chance (I was forced to sin)
  - 5- It's not my fault
- What advice could you offer a Christian who is struggling with overcoming a particular sin in their life?

### **Another Related Scripture (10 min)**

- Would a volunteer please read aloud Matthew 5:17-20, 43-48. Here Jesus presents a high view of scripture, a high calling to live a righteous life and to "be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." How do these words of Jesus motivate you to take sin seriously and avoid it?
- Living by the gospel of Christ is sometimes presented as easier than following the law, yet here Jesus seems to be adding requirements to the law, even loving your enemies. What additional resources does Jesus offer his followers under the new covenant to resist temptation and overcome the power of sin in their lives?
- How can what is provided by Christ as a safety net for sin, sometimes be taken for granted or misused to justify compromises in Christian ideals and commands that He would have us pursue?

### **Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)**

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon and in the reflections upon the additional scripture above?
- What about our Christian baptisms, when remembered, helps to offers us strength to resist evil and the temptation to sin?
- Among other practical ideas discussed tonight about how to resist evil and temptation to sin, which among them seem the most hopeful to you?

### **Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)**

- Robert Coleman wrote, "Genuine witness is but the reflection of Christian experience. It can neither be worked up through emotional appeals nor engineered through clever organization." In other words, Christian witnessing comes naturally to those who are in an active and authentic relationship with Christ. How might the content of the discussion tonight, have helped to shape a positive Christian witness with others around us this week?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.