

Questions

- What's your favorite kind of food?
 - Which do you prefer main dish or dessert or snack food?
- What kind of food is hard for you to say "no" to?

Contemplate

- We have "trusted in Christ" and we "trust God"—but when are you prone to mistrust God?
- When are you tempted to want your own way not trust God's plan?

Review

- **The One Story**
 - The story of God
 - A story with God as the producer, creator and main star
 - The story of us
 - Life only makes sense and has meaning when understood as part of God's story
- A unified story
 - God's plan from beginning to never ending, revealed in the Bible

The One Story—Overview

- Every good story has a **context**
 - God's creation of a "good world"
 - God's creation of mankind in His own image
 - To mirror God's image
 - To manage God's creation
 - To multiple God's glory
- Every good story has tension and **conflict**
 - The antagonist—Satan
 - The challenge—God's Word set a limitation and God's adversary offered an alternative

Overview

- Two weeks
 - Dealing with temptation
 - Defining and diagnosis sin

Context: Textual observation

- Genesis 2:15 “The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden to work it and keep it”
- Same concept used for the work of the priests and Levites for tabernacle or temple worship
- Genesis 3:23-24
- Because Adam and Eve failed to “take care” of the garden they are expelled from the garden



Context: Genesis 2:17

“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat”

- Why this command?
- Why would God create a “test” for Adam and Eve?



Context: A Test

- Do you see commands and particularly prohibitions in Scripture as...
- Positive—provision of blessing?
- Negative—restricting of freedom?



Context: A Test

- Provision and prohibition
 - May eat any tree
 - Cannot eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil
- The provision—demonstrates God’s care for man, knowing what is good for mankind
- The prohibition—gives man the opportunity to worship God through obedience
 - loyal devotion



Context: A Test

- Of all the members of created order, only mankind has the potential to cross the moral boundary
- Out of God’s goodness He tells man the benefits of obedience and consequences to disobedience



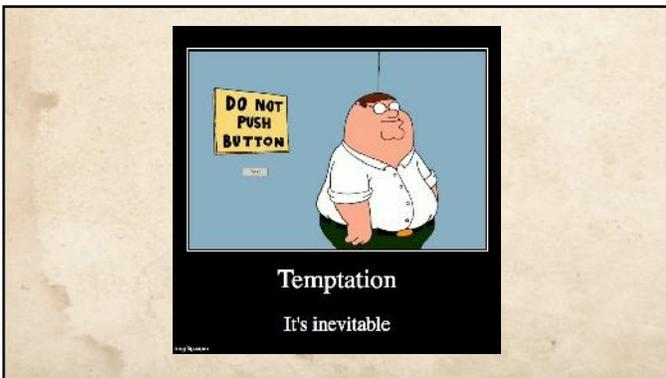
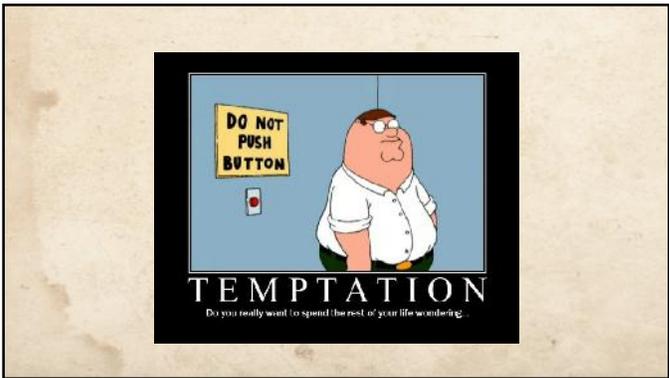
Context: A Test

- Commands and prohibition
 - For our good
 - For our protect
 - To enable us to draw closer to a holy God
 - To enable us to draw closer to others
- Establishing a standard (command with condition) by which man can maintain His relationship with God is not cruel restriction but a loving plan



Context: Genesis 2:16-17

- Only God knows what is good and not good for man
- To demonstrate this He creates a perfect environment and provides a suitable helper
- To enjoy the good
 - Man must trust and obey God
- If man does not trust God
 - He must choose for himself what is good or bad

Group Assignment

- What do you notice about temptation from Genesis 3:1-6
- What does Satan use to tempt Eve?
- How does Eve respond?
 - Specify the verses where you see



Temptation—Genesis 3:1-6

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"

2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,

3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. (ESV)

- Misrepresents
- Doubting God's Word
- Deny
- Doubting God's truthfulness
- Question or challenge
- Doubting God's goodness

Temptation—Genesis 3:1-6

- How would you describe the process of temptation that in Genesis 3?
 - Subtle not overt
 - Progressive
 - Doubt → Deny → Distrust God's character



Temptation—Genesis 3:1-6

- What do we learn about God in Genesis 3?
- Temptation is not about what we don't have, but what we think we need
- Temptation is a trust issue
 - Trust God and His Word or not



Group Assignment

- What do you notice about temptation from Matthew 4:1-11
- What does Satan do to tempt Jesus?
- How does Jesus respond?
 - Specify the verses where you see



Temptation—Matthew 4:1-11

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

2 And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

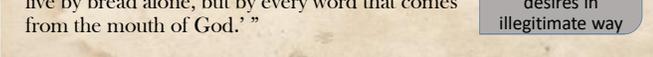
3 And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

4 But he answered, "It is written, " 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Question or challenge

Doubting God's goodness

Fulfill natural desires in illegitimate way



Temptation—Matthew 4:1-11

5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple

6 and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, " 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and " 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.' "

7 Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Misrepresents Changing God's Word (will)

Rebel against God's plan



Temptation—Matthew 4:1-11

8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

9 And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, " 'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.' "

11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. (ESV)

Deny

Replace God's glory

Instant gratification



James 1:12-15

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one.

14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (ESV)



Temptation

	Gen 3:1-6	Matt 4:1-11
The Number	3	3
The Environment	Garden—perfect (fully feed)	Wilderness—harsh (hungry)
The Subject	Eve (with Adam at her side)	Jesus
The Instigator	God provided a test The serpent manipulates the test	Spirit led Jesus to the wilderness in order to be tempted Devil allowed to tempt, but not lead
The Purpose	To cause Eve to doubt God's character	To prove Jesus character—demonstrates His worthiness
The Difficulty	Adam and Eve had everything they needed	Jesus left everything
The Consequences	Plunged humanity into sin	Jesus is prove worthy
The Role of God's Word	Questioned Modified and ignored	Questioned Memorized, use as defense and offence
The Role Satan	Cause doubt	Tempter
Result	Separation from God Alienation from each other	Closeness to God Cared by God

Genesis 3	Matthew 4	1 John 2:16	James 1:14-15
Saw the tree was good for food	"command the stone to be...bread"	Desires of the flesh	Each is tempted when
It was a delight to the eye	Shows him the kingdoms of the world "If you are the Son...cast yourself down"	Desires of the eye	he is lured and enticed by his own desires
that the tree was to be desired to make one wise	"All these I will give you,...if you...worship me."	Pride of life	
she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate			then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin
Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked.			sin when it is fully grown brings forth death

Strategy to deal with temptation

- Know your weakness
- Know your strengths



Temptation

Fulfilling legitimate needs in illegitimate means



Strategy to deal with temptation

- Know your weakness
- Know your strengths
- Know your God
- Know your Bible



Spiritual Warfare

Spiritual warfare is a truth battle!



How do you overcome temptation:

- **Wisdom**—know the Word of God and Obey it.
- **Know** God’s word accurately (Sword of the Spirit—Word of God Ephesians 6:17)
- **Trust** God’s goodness, justice, and Faithfulness
- **Obey** God’s word: so as to not allow Satan a foothold (2 Corinthians 2:9-11)



Strategy to deal with temptation

- What are we prone to doubt about God (areas that try our faith)?
- God’s presence—is God here in this trouble, is He paying attention?
- God’s provision—is God sufficient, is God able?
- God’s providence—is God aware, does He have a plan?
- God’s precepts—what has God said? Can I trust that if I do what God wants that it will be good for me?



Spiritual Warfare

- Temptation—**Flee**
 - Temptation—trying to get you to do what you should not
 - Don’t try to see how strong your resolve is—**flee**
- Spiritual Warfare—**Stand Firm**
 - Spiritual Warfare—trying to keep you from doing what you should
 - Don’t be fearful—**stand firm** in the Lord’s strength



Satan wants you to experience guilt and feel regret. God wants you to experience repentance and feel forgiveness.

Craig Groeschel



Dealing with temptation

- Know God’s Word
- Don’t place yourself near danger
- Establish accountability
 - Adam should have intervened
- Understand the consequences
- Understand your weaknesses
- LOVE God



- Trust in God is...
 - Believing God’s Word
 - Obeying God’s commands
 - Accepting God’s plan
 - Wanting God’s will
 - Loving God’s heart

