

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

JULY 24, 2022



ICEBREAKER

Have you traveled to Las Vegas? How was your experience?

READ

James 1: 13-15

QUESTIONS

- In what ways are we tempted? Why do we try to blame God for the temptations we face?
- What is the distinction between “tests” and “temptations?” ([testing or trials can help you become more mature in your faith– vs. 4](#); temptation is when you are dragged away by sinful desires– vs. 14)
- Why is it that God cannot be tempted? ([God is love, perfect, and incapable of evil](#))
- Patrick mentions 3 enemies that can drag us away and control our lives – The Devil, The Flesh, and The World. Which one tends to tempt you the most?
- How does the Devil tempt us? ([The Devil cannot make us do anything as followers of Jesus. Instead, he fools us into walking down a path we believe will lead us to happiness. We have the choice to follow that path vs. the one Jesus laid down for us](#))

READ

Romans 8:6

QUESTIONS

- What word or phrase from this passage stands out to you?
- What do you find challenging in this passage?
- Patrick said, "The battle we are involved in is one of the mind." How does this battle of the mind relate to the narrative with Eve in the Creation story? [\(The Devil put into the play the question – Did God really say? Satan used this to birth a desire and we begin to give ourselves permission to pursue that desire because we become convinced this will make us happy\)](#)

READ

James 1:15 and Romans 12:1-2

QUESTIONS

- The battle of temptation is a battle of our thoughts. What are some practical ways to renew our mind? [\(Use God's word as a source of truth, become quiet before God, give your thoughts over to God, share the struggle with others\)](#)
- Patrick quotes Ignatius of Loyola, "Sin is the unwillingness to trust that what God wants for me is only my deepest happiness." How does this statement challenge you?

READ

2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 6:8

QUESTIONS

- How can we begin to shift our focus from self to trusting God with our deepest happiness? [\(surrender control to God; shift our focus to God, trust that God knows what makes us happy and always has the best for us\)](#)
- What can you begin to do this week to cultivate this kind of joy/happiness?

PRAYER: God thank you for loving us. We want to pursue what ultimately matters, not conform to the patterns of this world. Help us transform our minds so we can better know Your will, and give us the courage to follow it. In Jesus' Name – Amen.

LEADERS: Encourage someone in your group to share their story next week!