

## **The Promises of God**

### **Lesson 3: “You Have an Escape from Temptation”** Participant Guide

#### **Greeting**

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- When it comes to food, what’s your guilty pleasure?
- What are some strategies you’ve tried to help you resist the temptation to indulge?
- How do you feel when you find yourself struggling with the same temptation over and over again?
- What are some common emotional reactions that people have when they find themselves faced with temptation?
- Why do you think so many people fall to temptation, even when they are aware of the possible consequences that await them?

#### *The Promise*

***“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13***

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- In your own words, what is God promising in this verse?
- And just as important, what are some things this verse *isn’t* promising?
- In other words, how have you noticed this promise being misused?
- What do you think Paul meant when he said that we would not be tempted beyond what we can bear? Do these words feel true to you when you are in the heat of temptation? Why or why not?

## New Story: Brian

### Discussion Questions:

- How did Brian accommodate his view of scripture to fit the shape of his temptation?
- Think about a time you wrestled with a temptation and failed a resisting it multiple times. What feelings did you wrestle with? How those feelings challenge your ability to trust God's promise?
- In practical terms, what does it look like to resist temptation in God's strength and not our own?

## God's Story

### God's Word

#### 2 Samuel 11:1-17 (ESV)

*In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.*

<sup>2</sup> *It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful. <sup>3</sup> And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, "Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" <sup>4</sup> So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house. <sup>5</sup> And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."*

<sup>6</sup> *So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. <sup>7</sup> When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going. <sup>8</sup> Then David*

said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king.<sup>9</sup> But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.<sup>10</sup> When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "Have you not come from a journey? Why did you not go down to your house?"<sup>11</sup> Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah dwell in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field. Shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do this thing."<sup>12</sup> Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day and the next.<sup>13</sup> And David invited him, and he ate in his presence and drank, so that he made him drunk. And in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

<sup>14</sup> In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah.<sup>15</sup> In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, that he may be struck down, and die."<sup>16</sup> And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men.<sup>17</sup> And the men of the city came out and fought with Joab, and some of the servants of David among the people fell. Uriah the Hittite also died.

**What are the first thoughts that come to your mind as you read this passage? Are there any questions that are coming to mind? How do you reconcile this passage with the Bible's statement that "David was a man after God's own heart."**

### ***Behind the Scenes***

It may seem like David sinned in a moment of weakness, but as is often the case for us, the sin occurred after several other smaller bad decisions. In verse 1 we read that David sent Joab to war instead of fulfilling his duty as king and going himself. In verse 2 we read about David's second bad decision on the path to temptation. He went up to the roof in the evening. During that time, it was common practice for people to bathe on their roof. So the "eyeful" that King David got by venturing out on the roof was hardly a total surprise.

### **Discussion Questions:**

- **What poor decisions did David make leading up to his affair with Bathsheba?**
- **How did David choose to "deal" with his sin? How did this only further complicate his life?**
- **What are some ways David would have had a way out of this temptation? After he sinned and committed adultery, did he still have a way out of further sin?**

## God's Word

### Matthew 4:1-11 (ESV)

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,*

*"Man shall not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

*<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple <sup>6</sup> 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."*

*<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> 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."*

*<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.*

### ***Behind the Scenes***

Jesus quoted several Old Testament scriptures after being led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

In Matthew 4:4, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3.

In Matthew 4:7, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:16.

In Matthew 4:10, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:13.

**These are meaning insights my friends got out of the text:**

### **Discussion Questions:**

- **How was Jesus particularly vulnerable at the time of his temptation? When do you feel susceptible to temptation?**
- **How equipped do you feel to use Jesus' strategy to resist temptation? What would need to change for you to be able to imitate Jesus' strategy?**

### **Growing**

**When, like David, have you made poor decisions that exposed you to temptation?**

**How will Christ's example of resisting temptation help you approach the next situation where you are tempted?**