

Temptation — Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#86) — KJV

Psalm 101:3 "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God wants us to protect our minds by being very careful about what we look at. When we refuse to watch wicked things, we keep our hearts pure and safe from temptation.

📖 Bible Story (Job 31 & Psalm 101)

Job was a man who loved God and was described as perfect and upright. He was wealthy, having large herds of animals and a beautiful family.

Because of his power and wealth, Job could have looked at or done anything he wanted. There were tempting things in the world around him that could have captured his attention and destroyed his life.

But Job understood a secret about how temptation works. He knew that sin almost always starts with what we choose to look at with our eyes. If he allowed his eyes to focus on wicked things, his heart would follow.

So, Job made a life-changing decision to protect his purity. In Job 31, he declared that he had made a "covenant with his eyes." A covenant is an unbreakable promise.

Job made a promise to God and to himself that he would forcefully control where he looked. He refused to gaze at anything that would tempt him to sin or pull his heart away from God.

Hundreds of years later, King David made this exact promise in Psalm 101. As a king, David had unlimited access to entertainment and worldly pleasures. But he boldly declared to God, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes!" Both Job and David understood that the best way to defeat temptation is to guard the front door of our minds.

We cannot always control what appears in front of us, but we can choose whether to keep watching, turn away, or ask God for help.

🌟 True Story

In the 1920s, a young farm boy named Philo Farnsworth had a world-changing idea. While driving a horse-drawn tractor back and forth across a dirt field, he noticed the straight lines the plow made in the soil.

Looking at those lines, he realized a way to capture moving pictures and send them through the air using straight lines of electricity. Working tirelessly in a laboratory, Philo invented the first electronic television system.

He believed his invention would change the world for good. Philo hoped television would be used to share music, broadcast educational programs, and help families learn about different cultures without leaving their living rooms.

But as the years passed, television networks began producing shows filled with violence, wicked behavior, and mindless entertainment to make money. As Philo grew older, he became heartbroken by what his invention had become.

He saw how the wicked images were affecting people's minds and hearts. Because he knew how powerful the moving pictures were, Philo made a radical rule for his own family.

The man who invented the television refused to let his own children watch it! He told his son there was nothing worthwhile on the screen and he did not want those wicked images inside his house.

Philo's story helps us remember that our eyes matter. Screens are not evil by themselves, but we must choose carefully what we allow into our minds. A clean heart often begins with a guarded eye.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What specific body part did Job make an unbreakable covenant (promise) with?
- What famous machine did Philo Farnsworth invent after looking at plowed lines in a dirt field?
- Job made a strict promise to protect what he looked at. What is one specific TV show, video game, or movie that you know you shouldn't set before your eyes?

🎬 Activity:

Show the kids how images stick to our minds! Wrap a piece of masking tape completely around a child's hand with the sticky side facing out. Have them pat a table sprinkled with a little dirt or glitter (representing wicked images). The tape instantly grabs the dirt and won't let it go! Talk about how our eyes are exactly like sticky tape—the bad things we look at instantly stick to our minds and are very hard to wash off.

Temptation — Day 2



 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#87) — KJV

1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Apply the Promise!

God promises that He will never let you face a temptation that is too strong for you to handle. Whenever you are tempted to do wrong, He always provides a safe way to escape!

Bible Story (Genesis 3)

In the beautiful Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve had everything they needed. God had filled their home with good food, beauty, work, love, and perfect happiness. There was only one tree from which He told them not to eat.

One day, the serpent came to Eve and began planting doubt in her mind. He questioned God's words and made the forbidden fruit look exciting and desirable. Eve stood near the very tree God had warned them about.

But Eve was not trapped. She had a way to escape. She could have turned away, called for Adam, repeated God's command, or gone to the beautiful things God had already given her.

God had not left Eve helpless in front of temptation. His warning was clear, and His love had already surrounded her with everything good. If she had stepped away at once, the temptation would have lost its power. But temptation becomes more dangerous when we stay close to it and keep listening.

Eve kept looking and listening. The longer she stayed near the temptation, the stronger it became. Finally, she took the fruit, ate it, and gave some to Adam. Their choice brought sin, shame, and sorrow into the world. What looked pleasing for a moment brought pain that only Jesus could heal.

This story teaches us to run toward God's way of escape before temptation grows strong. The safest time to say no is at the beginning, when God first shows us that something is wrong.

True Story

In May 2013, ten-year-old Tyler Schaefer was staying with his father at a hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. Tyler liked exploring hotel rooms, opening drawers, and looking for anything interesting left behind.

This time, he found something shocking. Inside a drawer was a stack of cash—\$10,000 in neatly bundled bills. For a child, it must have looked like an unbelievable treasure.

Tyler and his father had a choice to make. No one had seen them find the money. They could have tried to keep it, hide it, or convince themselves that no one would ever know.

But God always gives a way to escape temptation. Tyler and his father chose honesty. They handed the money over to police officers who were working at the hotel.

Turning in the money meant they might never get to keep it, even if no owner was found. But doing right was worth more than a drawer full of cash.

No one came forward to claim the money. A year later, Tyler and his father were told they could claim it through Missouri's unclaimed-property process. But the most important part of the story had already happened: when temptation came, Tyler and his father chose honesty instead of hiding the money.

Tyler's story shows that temptation often comes with an easy excuse. But when we choose God's escape route, we keep something far better than money—a clean conscience and a faithful heart.

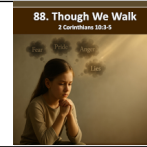
Discussion Questions:

- What lie did the serpent tell Eve about eating the forbidden fruit?
- Exactly how much money did Tyler find hidden in the hotel drawer?
- First Corinthians says temptation is "common to man," meaning everyone faces it! What is one temptation you struggle with the most, and how can you ask Jesus for help?

Activity:

Show how ignoring the escape route traps us! Wrap a single piece of yarn loosely around a child's hands. They can easily pull their hands apart (the easy way of escape). But if they stay in the temptation, keep wrapping the yarn around their hands ten or fifteen times. Now they are completely trapped and cannot break free! Talk about how we must take the very first escape route God offers before the temptation wraps us up tightly.

Temptation — Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#88) — KJV

2 Corinthians 10:3–5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

💖 Apply the Promise!

We don't fight our invisible battles with physical weapons! When scary thoughts or lies try to build a stronghold in our minds, we can use God's Word to completely capture them and find peace.

📖 Bible Story (Mark 5)

Jesus and his disciples sailed across the Sea of Galilee to the region of Gadara. The exact moment Jesus stepped out of the boat, a man came running out of the nearby graveyard.

This man was trapped in a spiritual stronghold. He was possessed by a legion of evil spirits that tormented his mind and controlled his body. The townspeople were terrified of him and constantly tried to tie him up with iron chains.

But the man had unnatural strength and shattered the chains to pieces. He lived alone in the tombs, crying out day and night and cutting himself with stones. He was a prisoner in his own mind, unable to break free from the enemy's control.

But the weapons of God's warfare are mighty. When the man saw Jesus from far away, he ran and fell down to worship Him. Jesus did not use a sword or an earthly army to fight the spiritual battle; He simply used the power of His spoken word.

Jesus commanded the evil spirits to leave the man. The demons instantly fled into a herd of pigs, and the pigs rushed down a steep cliff into the sea.

When the townspeople came to see what had happened, they were shocked. The man was no longer screaming or breaking chains. He was sitting peacefully at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind. Jesus shattered the stronghold and brought the man's mind into beautiful peace!

This shows that Jesus has power over every dark thought, lie, fear, and temptation. When our minds feel troubled or trapped, we can run to Him, speak truth from His Word, and ask Him to bring every thought into obedience to Christ.

☀️ True Story

As a teenager, Sadie Robertson seemed to have a nearly perfect life. She was a successful young star on the popular television show *Duck Dynasty*, and many people knew her for her bright smile and cheerful personality. But behind the scenes, Sadie was battling anxiety, fearful thoughts, and overwhelming worry.

Her mind was often filled with frightening "what if" thoughts. She worried about the dark, about bad things happening to her family, and about failing. At times, the fear made it hard for her to sleep. She tried to fight the anxious thoughts in her own strength, but they kept coming back. The fear felt like a prison in her mind, and she knew she needed more than her own willpower to be free.

As she studied 2 Corinthians 10, she learned that God gives His children spiritual weapons. Instead of letting fearful thoughts run wherever they wanted, she began learning to take those thoughts captive. When an anxious thought came, she would stop and answer it with the truth of God's Word.

Little by little, Sadie learned to replace fear with faith. God's promises helped her recognize lies, turn her mind back to Christ, and find peace. Today, Sadie writes and speaks to encourage others to bring their thoughts to Jesus and trust the truth of Scripture instead of being ruled by fear.

Sadie's story shows that temptation is not always something we can see. Sometimes the battle is a fearful thought, a lie, or an imagination that tries to rule us. God's Word is strong enough to pull down those lies and bring peace to the mind.

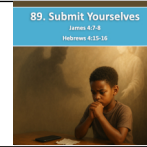
💬 Discussion Questions:

- What scary place did the terrified man in Gadara live inside of?
- What was the name of the popular TV show Sadie starred on when she struggled with fear?
- A "stronghold" is a lie from the enemy that gets stuck in our heads. What is one bad thought or lie (like "I'm not smart" or "Nobody likes me") that you sometimes struggle to stop thinking about?

🎨 Activity:

Show how we must grab our thoughts! Write a negative thought (like "I'm a failure" or "I'm afraid") on a balloon with a marker. Toss the balloon in the air—it represents a wild imagination flying completely out of control in our heads! Have a child aggressively grab the balloon out of the air (taking it captive) and pop it with a pushpin! Talk about how we must actively grab our scary thoughts and destroy them with God's truth.

Temptation — Day 4



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#89) — KJV

James 4:7–8 "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." **Hebrews 4:15–16** "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Jesus understands how hard temptation feels. Because He never sinned, we can boldly ask Him for help. When we draw close to God and resist the devil, temptation loses its power.

📖 Bible Story (Matthew 4)

Before Jesus began His ministry, He went into the wilderness to fast and pray for forty days. He was exhausted and at His weakest point.

The devil approached Him, trying to make Him stumble and sin. Because Jesus faced temptation just like us, He understands our struggles.

The enemy tried several tricks, but his biggest attempt happened on a mountain. The devil showed Jesus the kingdoms of the world and their glory in a single moment.

He promised to give Jesus power, wealth, and control over everything if Jesus would fall down and worship him. It was a deceitful trap.

Jesus did not argue or use physical strength to fight back. Instead, He resisted the enemy using the truth of Scripture. He commanded the devil to leave, declaring, "Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."

Jesus demonstrated that speaking God's Word is a weapon against temptation. Because Jesus submitted to God the Father, the defeated enemy had to flee. Because Jesus faced temptation and won, we can run to His throne of grace and ask for help whenever we face a trial!

This story teaches us that temptation is not sin. Jesus was tempted, but He never gave in. When temptation comes to us, we can run to God, speak truth, and ask Jesus for strength to obey.

☀️ True Story

In the fall of 2013, Glen James lived on the streets of Boston, Massachusetts. He was homeless, relying on the kindness of strangers to buy a meal or find a warm place to sleep.

One evening, Glen walked through a shopping mall and spotted a black backpack abandoned on the floor. When Glen opened the bag to look for an ID, he was shocked.

Stuffed inside the backpack was forty-two thousand dollars in cash and traveler's checks, along with a passport! For a homeless man who had nothing, this was a huge temptation.

Glen could have taken the money, bought clothes, and never slept on the freezing streets again. It was life-changing wealth sitting in his hands. But Glen knew that taking something that belonged to someone else was a sin.

Instead of letting the temptation trick him, he submitted to God and resisted the enemy's lies. Glen zipped the backpack shut, walked out of the mall, flagged down a police officer, and handed over the money.

When the local news shared the story of his honesty, people across the country were moved. They started a fundraiser for Glen and raised over one hundred and sixty thousand dollars to help him buy a house. Because he chose to resist temptation and do the right thing, God blessed his honesty and changed his life forever!

Glen's story shows that resisting temptation may feel costly at first, but doing right is never wasted. When we choose honesty instead of sin, we keep something more valuable than money: a clean conscience before God.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What did the devil show Jesus from the top of the high mountain?
- Exactly how much money was stuffed inside the abandoned backpack Glen found?
- Jesus fought the devil by quoting Bible verses out loud. What is one short, powerful Bible verse you can memorize to fight back when you feel tempted to do something wrong?

🎨 Activity:

Fill a shallow plate with water and sprinkle a layer of black pepper on top (representing the devil and temptations). Have a child stick their dry finger in the middle—the pepper stubbornly sticks to them. Now, put a drop of dish soap on their finger (representing drawing near to God's purifying power) and have them touch the center again. The pepper instantly shoots away to the edges of the plate! Talk about how the enemy flees when we submit to God.

Temptation — Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#90) — KJV

Jude 1:24–25 "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen."

💖 Apply the Promise!

God has power to keep us from falling into sin. When we walk closely with Him, He can help us live clean, honest lives and bring us to heaven with joy.

📖 Bible Story (Numbers 22)

Balaam was a prophet who knew about the true God, but his heart was not fully surrendered. When King Balak offered him money and honor to curse God's people, Balaam was tempted.

At first, God clearly told Balaam not to go. That should have been enough. But Balaam wanted the reward so badly that he kept hoping God would let him do what he wanted.

This is how temptation often works. It does not always look ugly at first. Sometimes it looks like money, praise, popularity, comfort, or getting our own way.

As Balaam traveled, God sent an angel to stand in the road. Balaam could not see the danger, but his donkey could. Three times the donkey turned away, trying to save Balaam's life.

Instead of stopping to think, Balaam became angry and struck the donkey. Giving into temptation had made him blind and stubborn. He was so focused on what he wanted that he could not see God was trying to protect him.

Then God opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel standing in the way with a sword. God had been mercifully warning Balaam before he fell deeper into sin.

Balaam's story teaches us that God gives warnings and ways of escape when temptation is pulling us toward wrong. But we must listen quickly. If we keep asking for what God has already forbidden, our hearts can grow harder. The safest choice is to stop, turn around, and obey God before temptation leads us farther away from Him.

☀️ True Story

In the spring of 2005, professional tennis player Andy Roddick competed in a championship tournament in Rome, Italy. He played a match against a skilled opponent named Fernando Verdasco.

The score was close, but Andy reached match point. This meant if Andy scored one more point, he would win the match and advance to the next round. Fernando stepped up to serve the ball.

He hit it hard across the net, but the line judge yelled, "Out!" The crowd started cheering. The umpire announced that the match was over. Andy had won! He could have packed his rackets, celebrated his victory, and walked off the court a champion. But as Andy walked toward the net to shake hands, he looked at the ground.

He saw a mark on the white line where Fernando's ball had bounced. The line judge had made a mistake. The ball was in! Nobody else saw the mark, but Andy refused to fall into the trap of taking a victory he did not earn.

He called the umpire over, pointed at the mark, and gave the point back to his opponent. The umpire reversed the call. Play continued. Fernando Verdasco came back and won the match. Andy's honesty cost him the victory that day, but it protected something more important than a trophy.

Andy's story shows that temptation can come in a moment when no one expects it. God can help us choose truth quickly, even when dishonesty would seem easier. A clean conscience before God is worth more than winning by a lie!

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What animal did Balaam ride that saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the path?
- What did the line judge yell when Fernando served the ball across the net?
- Andy Roddick gave up a victory because he wanted to tell the truth. Have you ever had to tell the truth even when you knew it was going to cost you something fun?

🎬 Activity:

Show how to stay on God's path! Place a long piece of masking tape on the floor, just like the tennis line in Andy's story. Have the kids try to walk the line heel-to-toe while looking straight ahead. It is easy when we focus! Now, have them try to walk the line while looking sideways at a shiny toy or a screen (representing temptation). They will quickly stumble off the line! Talk about how keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus keeps us from falling.