

# MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## UNWANTED INVITATIONS

Pastor Andy Rauschkolb gave a powerful message on temptation as he continued teaching from the book of Luke, reminding us that we have an adversary: Satan. He wants to destroy us by destroying our relationship with God, and his first and best tool for this is temptation. The good news is we also have a Savior who models for us how to deal with temptation, defeat the enemy, and deliver us victoriously back into a safe relationship with God. During forty days of fasting in the wilderness, Satan lured Jesus with various worldly, yet personal, temptations. He tried to use and twist Scripture to justify Jesus giving into temptation. Satan used areas of weakness to get Jesus to turn from God. Satan was clever, but Jesus was resolute and saw the enemy for who he really was and straight up rejected him. He defeated Satan with the truth of Scripture, the promises of God they hold, and his trust in the Father to provide for him.

### Reminders from Andy's message:

Temptations is an invitation to:

- Distrust God (trusting instead ourselves, desires, impulses)
- Exchange our Worship (from Creator to created things)
- Test God (instead of trusting)

Our plan to have victory over our enemy:

- Be alert
- Be submitted
- Be discerning
- Be marinating in God's Word
- Be confessing, praying, and repenting

## SCRIPTURES:

*Then Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan River. He was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where he was tempted by the devil for forty days. Jesus ate nothing all that time and became very hungry. Then the devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become a loaf of bread." But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. "I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them," the devil said, "because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will worship me." Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect and guard you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'" Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" When the devil had finished tempting Jesus, he left him until the next opportunity came. – Luke 4:1-13 NLT*

*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. – 1 Peter 5:8 NIV*

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. – John 10:10 NIV*

*And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. – 2 Corinthians 11:14 ESV*

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. – James 4:7 ESV*

*Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires. – Romans 13:14 NLT*

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. – Psalm 119:11 NIV*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. – 1 John 1:9 NIV*

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. – James 5:16 NIV*

*On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." – Luke 22:40 NIV*

*I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. – Luke 5:32 NIV*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What that stood out to you in Andy's message?
2. Read Luke 4:1-13. What do you learn about Satan in this passage? What do you learn about Jesus?
3. Look at the Reminders from Andy's message. How do you see these rules of temptations play out in the passage?
4. What are some examples of how this plays out in our world? (If you feel comfortable, share how this plays out in your own life.)
5. Read the reminders from Andy's message, then the rest of the Scriptures above, and answer the following questions:
  - How and why can we be alert?
  - How and why can we be submitted?
  - How and why can we be discerning?
  - How and why can we be marinating (know) God's Word?
  - Why should we be confessing, praying, and repenting?
6. How does God restore if you fall into temptation?
7. How can we pray for you?

## **PRAYER**

Pray for God to strengthen and empower you when you meet temptation, not just to manage but defeat it. Ask him to keep you from putting yourself in temptation's way, to provide a way out, and to restore if you fall.