

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 25

Overcome Temptation

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The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will teach that in Christ we can have victory over sin and temptation.

Key Verses

1 Corinthians 10:1-13—Main Teaching Passage

Romans 7:13-20

1 John 1:10

Memory Verse - 1 Corinthians 15:57

"But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Ephesians 2:8.

Begin the class by writing Romans 7:15 on the board. Discuss this verse with the class. Ask what they think Paul means in this verse.

Ask the following questions:

"Why do we sometimes do things we know we shouldn't?"

"Why do we sometimes NOT do things that we know we should?"

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul is warning the Corinthian church about the danger of being around God, yet not knowing who He is. He reminds them of the Israelites, who along with Moses witnessed the parting of the Red Sea, the pillar of cloud leading them by day, and all the other miracles that took place during the journey from Egypt to Sinai and then into Israel. He warns them that they ought to be careful not to fall into the same temptations and sin as Israel, to abstain from idolatry and sexual immorality. The reason that Paul can share these things in his letter is because of the great hope that he has in verse 13: “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape.” Paul tells the Corinthians that even in the midst of the greatest struggle and desire to sin, God has promised that He will give the believer the ability to endure and overcome. Do we achieve a state of sinlessness and perfection? Not in this life. However, we are given the opportunity, through the power of God’s Spirit, to turn aside from temptation.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

In the two passages that we have presented before us today (Romans 7 and 1 Corinthians 10), we see two different perspectives of sin, the human perspective given in Romans 7, and the heavenly perspective in 1 Corinthians 10. Paul, of course, writes them both. The person who writes that he keeps on doing the wrong things is the same person who writes that God will provide an escape from every temptation that comes upon us. The focus of today's lesson is to show that even though we might fail time after time, God is still faithful to strengthen us, and gives us the opportunity and the ability to overcome the next time around.

Have you ever been in a situation where you were very seriously tempted to do the wrong thing? The temptation was so powerful, that even though you knew it to be completely wrong, you still went ahead and did the wrong thing anyway. If you have, take heart, be encouraged, and know that all of the rest of us have gone through the same thing. Even the apostle Paul, an incredible man of faith, who loved the Lord, was able to say that there were times when he did the things he knew he shouldn’t do. John, the disciple who wrote five books in the New Testament, would say, “If we say that we are without sin, the truth is not in us, and we make Christ a liar” (1 John 1:10). However, in 1 Corinthians 10, we see this

LOOK (Continued)

incredible promise. Paul tells us that if we are believers in Christ, then God, who is always faithful, will provide an escape for any temptation that comes upon us. Notice here that God does not promise us that He will take away the sin. Nor does He promise to take away our desire to sin. He promises that He will provide an escape. The thing about the “escape” is that you and I need to be willing to take it. Imagine a bank robber who walked out of the bank with a million dollars, walked over to the getaway car, and refused to get in. Instead of speeding away, he sat down on the ground and waited for the police. He would be caught every time. God promises that when temptation comes on us, He will give us a way out. You and I can choose to ignore that if we want to.

The warning that’s given in 1 Corinthians is this: learn from your mistakes. The Corinthian church was famous for being the most rebellious and sinful church in the world. They were deliberately doing all kinds of awful things. Paul says to them, you failed, you made all of these really bad mistakes, learn from that and next time don’t fall into sin. Paul even shows them other people who failed just as bad as they did, and He says that they still had the opportunity to repent, seek forgiveness for the things they had done wrong, and the next time they were faced with a sinful situation, to choose to honor God.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize 1 Corinthians 15:57.

Pray: Ask the Lord to show us clearly and obviously the temptations in our lives, and to show himself faithful in providing an escape for us in tempting circumstances. Praise Him that He is faithful and just to forgive.

Parent Question: How does God help us to overcome temptation?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 by David Guzik

1 Corinthians 10 - Idolatry Then and Now

A. Israel's bad example.

1. (1-5) Israel in the Exodus: blessed with many spiritual experiences, yet they were disqualified.

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for *their bodies* were scattered in the wilderness.

a. **Moreover, brethren:** 1 Corinthians 10 carries on the subject introduced in 1 Corinthians 8, and continued in chapter 9: what should the Corinthian Christians think and do in regard to meat which has been sacrificed to idols?

i. In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul established two principles. First, an idol really is nothing, and it was fine for Corinthian Christians who understood this to act according to this knowledge, in regard to themselves. Second, for Christians love is more important than knowledge. So even though I may "know" eating meat sacrificed to an idol is all right for myself, if it causes my brother to stumble, I won't do it, because it isn't the loving thing to do.

ii. In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul showed how important it is for Christians to give up their "rights." Just as Paul gave up his "right" to be supported by his own preaching of the gospel, so some of the Corinthian Christians must sometimes give up their "right" to eat meat sacrificed to idols, based on the principle of love towards a weaker brother. In the end of chapter 9, Paul showed how a Christian must be willing to give up some things - even "good" things - for the sake of winning the race God has set before us, otherwise we will *become disqualified* (1 Corinthians 9:27) in the competition of the Christian life.

b. **I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers:** Paul wrote about the need to finish what God has set before us, and how dangerous it is to refuse to give up something that gets in the way of finishing. Now, he will use Israel's experience in the Exodus from Egypt to illustrate this principle.

c. Think of all the blessings Israel had in the Exodus from Egypt!

i. **Our fathers passed through the cloud:** The cloud of Shekinah glory overshadowed Israel throughout their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. During the day, the cloud sheltered them from the brutal desert sun, and during the night, it burned as a pillar of fire. It was a constant, ready reminder of God's glory and presence (Exodus 13:21-22).

ii. **All passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses:** All Israel came through the Red Sea and saw God's incredible power in holding up the walls of the sea so they could cross over on dry ground. Then they saw God send the water back to drown the Egyptian army (Exodus 14:21-31). This was not only an amazing demonstration of God's love and power, but also a picture of baptism - by "passing through water," all of Israel was identified with Moses, even as by "passing through water," a Christian is identified with Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-4).

iii. **All ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink:** All of Israel was sustained by God's miraculous provision of food and drink during their time in the wilderness (Exodus 16:35 and 17:6). This was a remarkable display of God's love and power for Israel, and a pre-figuring of the spiritual food and drink we receive at the Lord's table (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

iv. Israel even had ancient versions of the two Christian sacraments we receive to this day: baptism and communion. The word *sacrament* was used for the oath of allegiance that the soldiers of the Roman legion took to their emperor. The early Christians considered communion and baptism to be an "oath of allegiance" unto Jesus Christ.

v. **For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ:** Israel even had the presence of Jesus Christ with them in the wilderness! Here, in identifying the **Rock that followed them**, Paul builds on a rabbinical tradition that said Israel was supplied with water by the same rock all through the wilderness, a rock that **followed them**. Some Bible scholars today debate as to if the **rock** followed Israel, or if the **water** followed Israel (as in a stream). The point is the same: Jesus Christ was present with Israel in the wilderness, providing for their needs miraculously. What blessing, what privilege!

d. **But with most of them God was not well pleased:** Despite all these blessings and spiritual privileges, the Israelites in the wilderness did not please God. In light of all those blessings, gratitude should have made them *more* pleasing to God, but they were not.

i. **Most of them:** This is a hard-hitting understatement. Only two men from the adult generation that left Egypt came into the Promised Land (Joshua and Caleb). **Most** indeed!

e. **For their bodies were scattered in the wilderness:** The displeasure of God with the Israelites was evident because they never entered into the Promised Land, but died in the wilderness instead. For all their blessings and spiritual experiences, they never entered into what God really had for them.

f. Paul's point hits hard: the Corinthian Christians were probably taking all sorts of liberties (like feasting in pagan temples, stumbling their brothers), thinking that they were "safe" because of past blessings and spiritual experiences (especially baptism and communion). So Paul warns them to beware, because just as Israel was blessed and had spiritual experiences, they still perished - and so some of the Corinthian Christians might also!

i. "It seems as if the Corinthians had supposed that their being made partakers of the ordinances of the Gospel, such as *baptism* and the *Lord's Supper*, would secure their salvation, notwithstanding, they might be found partaking of idolatrous feasts; as long, at least, as they considered an *idol to be nothing in the world*." (Clarke)

2. (6-10) Avoiding Israel's bad example.

Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. And do not become idolaters as *were* some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell; nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor

complain, as some of them also complained, and were destroyed by the destroyer.

a. **Now these things became our examples:** We can, and should, learn from Israel's failure in the wilderness. How did Israel fail?

b. They failed in that they could not say "no" to their desires, and so we must not **lust after evil things as they also lusted**. The Corinthian Christians who insisted on eating meat sacrificed to idols, even though they led other Christians into sin, just couldn't say "no." They said, "the meat is so good" or "it is such a bargain" but they could not say "no" out of love for God and love for a brother.

c. **And do not become idolaters as were some of them:** Israel failed to keep their focus on God, and they started giving themselves to idolatry (as in Exodus 32:1-6 and Numbers 25:1-3). Some of the Corinthian Christians not only got too close in their association with idols; they also made an idol out of their own "knowledge" and their own "rights."

d. **Nor let us commit sexual immorality as some of them did:** Israel, in their idolatry, surrendered to the temptation of sexual immorality. **Rose up to play** (quoted from Exodus 32:6) is a tasteful way to refer to gross immorality among the people of Israel. We know the Corinthian Christians were having trouble with sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18-20), and the context here suggests it is connected with their selfish desire to please themselves, expressed in insisting on the "right" to eat meat sacrificed to idols.

i. "The verb translated *play* suggests sex-play in Hebrew . . . and therefore we are probably to understand drunken orgies." (Cole, in his commentary on Exodus)

ii. **And in one day twenty-three thousand fell:** This number presents some difficulty. The quotation from Exodus 32:6 sets the context there, and in Exodus 32:28 tells us *about three thousand men of the people fell that day*. Perhaps there were more that died which the Scriptures do not record, or there were 20,000 *women* who died in the aftermath of the golden-calf incident, or some think Paul has jumped ahead to another time when Israel's sexual immorality during the Exodus brought God's judgment upon them (Numbers 25:9). In the Numbers passage, we are told that 24,000 died from the judgment of God, but perhaps it was 23,000 who died **in one day**.

iii. "What a wonderful book is the Bible, written at intervals during a period of fifteen hundred years, when such apparitions of inaccuracy as this must be seized upon to impeach its infallibility!" (Hodge)

e. **Nor let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed by serpents; nor complain:** Numbers 21:4-9 describes the incident where, in response to the complaining of the people, God sent *fiery serpents among the people*. Again, their complaining hearts show them to be self-focused and more concerned with their own desires than God's glory - the same issues causing trouble with the Corinthian Christians, who will not yield their right to eat meat sacrificed to idols for the sake of another brother.

f. Because of the warning in 1 Corinthians 10:1-5, it seems the Corinthian Christians believed they were "safe" from the danger of being **destroyed** (as the Israelites were **destroyed**) because of past spiritual experiences or accomplishments. But Paul's warning stands: "If it happened to Israel, it can happen to you. Be on guard."

i. The Corinthian Christians seem to have regarded this issue of eating meat sacrificed to idols and thereby stumbling their brother as a "small" issue. Paul wants them and us to know that it reflects a selfish, self-focused heart, which is the kind of heart God destroyed among the Israelites in the wilderness. It may have been a relatively small symptom, but it was a symptom of a great and dangerous disease.

3. (11-13) Summary of the lesson from Israel's history: standing strong against temptation.

Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.

a. **All these things happened to them as examples:** Since we are those **upon whom the ends of the ages have come**, we can and should take warning from the bad example of Israel. We have a greater responsibility, because we can learn from Israel's mistakes.

b. **Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall:** For the Corinthian Christians to resist the temptation to be selfish and self-focused, they must first understand they are vulnerable. The one who **thinks he stands** will not stay on guard against temptation, so he may easily **fall**.

i. Temptation works like rocks in a harbor; when the tide is low, everybody sees the danger and avoids it. But Satan's strategy in temptation is to raise the tide, and to cover over the dangers of temptation. Then he likes to crash you upon the covered rocks.

ii. "The highest saint under heaven can stand no longer than he depends upon God and continues in the obedience of faith. He that ceases to do so will fall into sin, and get a darkened understanding and a hardened heart." (Clarke)

c. **No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man:** We often want to excuse our particular tempting circumstances as "very unique" and a "special exception," but God reminds us that our temptation is not unique. Many other men and women of God have faced the same or similar temptation, and have found the strength in God to overcome the temptation.

i. Others before you have found strength in the Lord to overcome your same temptation - and worse. So, you can be victorious - in the strength of Jesus, not in your own strength. We fight temptation with Jesus' power, like the girl who explained what she did when Satan came with temptation at the door of her heart: "I send Jesus to answer the door. When Satan sees Jesus, he says, 'OOPS, sorry, I must have the wrong house.'"

d. **God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able:** God has promised to supervise all temptation that comes at us through the world, the flesh or the devil. He promises to limit it according to our capability to endure it - according to our capability as we rely on Him, not our capability as we rely only on ourselves.

i. Satan would destroy us in a minute if God would let him, even as he wanted to destroy Job (Job 1:6-12) and Peter (Luke 22:31), but God will not let him. Like a mom who keeps her child from the candy aisle in a store, knowing the child couldn't handle that temptation, God keeps us from things we can't handle. But what we can and can't handle changes over the years.

e. **With the temptation will also make the way of escape:** God has promised to not only *limit* our temptation, but also to provide a **way of escape** in tempting times. He will never force us to use **the way of escape**, but he will **make the way of escape** available. It's up to us to take God's **way of escape**.

i. The **way of escape** isn't the same as mere "relief" from the pressure temptation, which some people find by *giving in to the temptation*! There is often a wrong way to relieve a temptation, and we will often face *the same temptations over and over again* until we show Satan and our flesh we are **able to bear it**.

ii. Barclay says the word for **a way of escape** is really *a mountain pass*, with the idea of an army being surrounded by the enemy, and then suddenly seeing an escape route to safety. Like a mountain pass, the **way of**

escape isn't necessarily an easy way.

f. The **way of escape** does not lead us to a place where we escape all temptation (that is heaven alone). **The way of escape** leads us to the place where we **may be able to bear it**.

i. We are reminded that to be tempted is not sin, but to entertain temptation or surrender to temptation is sin. When we **bear** temptation, Satan often condemns us for being tempted, but that is condemnation from Satan the Christian does not need to accept.

ii. At a market, a little boy standing by some candy looked like he was going to put some in his pocket and walk out the door. A clerk watched the boy for a long time, and finally spoke to him. "Looks like you're trying to take some candy," the clerk said. The boy replied, "You're wrong, mister. I'm trying *not* to." For the time being, he was **able to bear it**.