

Prayer

Week 3: "Lead Us Not Into Temptation"

Main Idea: Prayer is an essential and integral part of the Christian life. It is important that we have a proper understanding of prayer and learn how to incorporate it into our lives appropriately. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus instructs His followers how to pray according to the will of God the Father.

Additional prep: <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/does-god-lead-us-into-temptation>

Goals for the evening:

- Develop a better understanding of temptation in the Christian life and how to respond to it with an appropriate reliance upon God
 - Identify areas of personal weakness and encourage and pray for one another in those areas
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Introduction (Optional)

- How active was your prayer life this past week?
- Did you develop any new prayer routines that you found fruitful?
- How have you been encouraged recently by seeking the Lord in prayer?

Have someone read Matthew 6:9-13 & Matthew 26:41

Focus on Matthew 6:13 & Matthew 26:41:

"And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil." (Matt. 6:13)

"Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt. 26:41)

- How would you define temptation? Why do you think Jesus concludes the Lord's prayer with this statement (v. 13)?
- What does it mean for the spirit to be willing but the flesh to be weak? Why is dependence upon God necessary in our battle against temptation?
- Why might God allow us to be tempted? (see 1 Corinthians 10:13)

Candid Conversation

- What are areas where you're prone to be tempted? What has your response to this temptation looked like?
- When do you find it easiest to resist temptation? When is it hardest?
- How has God enabled you to overcome temptation as you've been reliant upon Him? How can we consistently encourage one another in areas where we may struggle?

**Spend some time praying about the areas of temptation you discussed and for a greater reliance upon God.

"And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us." (1 John 5:14)