

CONQUERING TEMPTATION

PROVERBS 7

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – JULY 28, 2024

LEADER NOTES

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE BREAK | Annual Church Group rhythms include a break from Sermon Discussion Guides in the month of August. During this month, please reference page 37 of the Church Group Leader Manual for a general discussion guide. Weekly Sermon Discussion Guides will resume in September.

SCRIPTURE READING

Proverbs 7, ESV

Warning Against the Adulteress

7 My son, keep my words

and treasure up my commandments with you;

² keep my commandments and live;

keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;

³ bind them on your fingers;

write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴ Say to wisdom, “You are my sister,”

and call insight your intimate friend,

⁵ to keep you from the forbidden^[a] woman,

from the adulteress^[b] with her smooth words.

⁶ For at the window of my house

I have looked out through my lattice,

⁷ and I have seen among the simple,

I have perceived among the youths,

a young man lacking sense,

⁸ passing along the street near her corner,

taking the road to her house

⁹ in the twilight, in the evening,

at the time of night and darkness.

¹⁰ And behold, the woman meets him,
dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.^[c]

¹¹ She is loud and wayward;

her feet do not stay at home;

¹² now in the street, now in the market,

and at every corner she lies in wait.

¹³ She seizes him and kisses him,

and with bold face she says to him,

¹⁴ “I had to offer sacrifices,^[d]

and today I have paid my vows;

¹⁵ so now I have come out to meet you,

to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.

¹⁶ I have spread my couch with coverings,

colored linens from Egyptian linen;

¹⁷ I have perfumed my bed with myrrh,

aloes, and cinnamon.

¹⁸ Come, let us take our fill of love till morning;

let us delight ourselves with love.

¹⁹ For my husband is not at home;

he has gone on a long journey;

²⁰ he took a bag of money with him;

at full moon he will come home.”

²¹ With much seductive speech she persuades him;

with her smooth talk she compels him.

²² All at once he follows her,

as an ox goes to the slaughter,

or as a stag is caught fast^[e]

²³ till an arrow pierces its liver;

as a bird rushes into a snare;

he does not know that it will cost him his life.

²⁴ And now, O sons, listen to me,

and be attentive to the words of my mouth.

²⁵ Let not your heart turn aside to her ways;

do not stray into her paths,

²⁶ for many a victim has she laid low,

and all her slain are a mighty throng.

²⁷ Her house is the way to Sheol,

going down to the chambers of death.

SERMON RECAP

What are the most common temptations that you face?

- We live in a spiritual world.
- We are involved in a spiritual war.
- The stakes in this spiritual war are high.
- There is an adversary in this world who wants to destroy you.
- There is an Ally over this world who wants to save and satisfy you.

Cycle of Temptation



How do you fight the war of temptation?

- Fill your mind with His truth.
- Guard your mind with His vigilance.
- Watch your steps at all times by the power of His Spirit inside you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Proverbs 7 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - What counsel does Solomon give to his son in Proverbs 7:1-4?
 - What does he say is the benefit of keeping God's word and wisdom close? (Proverbs 7:5)
 - How does Solomon describe the way that temptation works? (Proverbs 7:6-23)
 - What pictures of temptation do you observe in Proverbs 7:12-21?
 - What is the end of all temptation? (Proverbs 7:22-23, 26-27)
 - How does Solomon exhort his son to guard against temptation? (Proverbs 7:1-4; 24-25)
 - How would you summarize Proverbs 7 in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. What are some sources of temptation?
 - Genesis 3:6; Mark 7:21-23, Luke 4:13, Ephesians 6:11-12; James 1:13-15
2. Why does temptation have such tremendous power to destroy?
 - Genesis 3:1-6; 2 Samuel 11:2-17; Proverbs 7:12, 2 Corinthians 11:14
3. How did Jesus model for us to fight against temptation?
 - Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13
4. In the battle against temptation, what truths do we need to hold fast to?
 - John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8-10; Revelation 20:10

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

NOTE: Since the area of temptation can be a sensitive topic, it might be wise this week to have group members share some of their specific application points in their gender-specific huddles. You might also remind group members to be gracious towards each other as other share honestly. You might consider watching this brief 201 video from Elder Britten Taylor on accountability before your group meets to help you set-up that time well: mcleanbible.org/church-group-201-videos/#huddles

1. What kinds of temptation to sin are luring, or enticing, you away from God and His word?
 - What struggles are you battling or facing right now?
 - What has God called for you to do that you are avoiding or ignoring?
 - What sin(s) do you need to confess to the Lord?
 - How can your Church Group pray for you?
2. How are you fighting the alluring temptations of this world?
 - How are you filling your mind with God's truth in the battle against temptation?
 - What changes do you need to make to prioritize hiding God's word in your heart?
 - How are you prioritizing passing on God's word to the next generation to help them fight against temptation?
 - How can our Church Group encourage you to faithfully hide God's truth in your heart?
 - What safeguards do you have to guard your heart with vigilance?
 - How are you guarding your time? What you view? Your desires?
 - How can our Church Group serve as an accountability partner for you?
 - In what ways are you tempted to fight temptation in your own strength, instead of by God's power living in you?
 - How are you being watchful and drawing near to God?
 - How can you orient your efforts to fighting temptation in the power of His Spirit living in you?
 - How can our Church Group pray for you in the battle against temptation?