

HAVE A BETTER CHRISTMAS THROUGH JESUS' UNDERSTANDING

HEBREWS 4:14-16

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man."

1 Cor 10:13

Where does temptation hit you the hardest?

You are not ALONE!

What does it mean that Jesus shared our temptation?

- 1) He shared our struggle with the KIND of temptation.
- 2) He shared our struggle with the MANNER of temptation.
- 3) He shared our struggle with the CAPACITY to sin.

The difference was not in the battle with temptation, but in the result of it!

Since Jesus was without sin, it accomplishes at least three things:

- 1) We have assurance that Jesus UNDERSTANDS.
- 2) We are free to talk STRAIGHT with God.
- 3) We have confidence in his GRACE.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Which temptation(s) are you tempted to believe that you battle alone?
2. How is Jesus' sharing our struggle with temptation a concern of Christmas?
3. What does it say to you that Jesus did not get a short-cut through temptation, but experienced its full force, yet was without sin?



Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.

This text speaks of the common experience of temptation, and God's promise of a pathway out.

- Share temptations you commonly experience ... as you share see if anyone else in the group has confronted similar temptations. How does it feel knowing you are not alone in your struggle?

Read Matthew 4:1-11.

This passage describes a chain of temptations that Satan confronted Jesus with. In these temptations we can see a mirror of some temptations that we might confront.

- In what way is Jesus' temptation to turn stones to bread similar to a temptation we might face?
- In what way is Jesus' temptation to gain a following by jumping from the pinnacle of the temple similar to a temptation we might face?
- In what way is Jesus' temptation to worship Satan for the promise of a material kingdom similar to a temptation we might face?

Read Hebrews 2: 9-18.

This passage teaches that Jesus is able to be a channel for God's grace when we fall to temptation because he understands our struggle.

- Why do you think it was so important for the Hebrews readers to understand Jesus confronted temptation just like them?
- What do you think of the idea that Jesus was enticed by the allure of temptation, and could have chosen to sin, but remained faithful to God?
- What comfort does knowing Jesus understands your battles with temptation and sin give you?
- Why would Jesus' common experience with temptation make him a better minister to us?

Next Steps	<p>Here are some specific things you can do this week that will help you understand the significance of Jesus putting on human flesh:</p> <p>Spend some time during the week reading through the gospel of Matthew. As you read through the life of Jesus note temptations that he could have experienced at different junctures (i.e., getting down from the cross).</p> <p>How can you be God incarnate for someone battling temptation? You can't give them redemption, but you can introduce them to the Redeemer. You can also become an accountability partner for someone who needs someone to lean on when facing temptation.</p>
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