

# GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

## THE WAR WE IGNORE

### **SERIES THEME//**

Think about the way we make disciples: We teach truth to change thinking. We explain ethics, to influence behavior. We provide counseling to heal hearts and mend relationships. These practices are essential to discipleship, but they are not sufficient for life transformation. Scripture tells us that there is an unseen reality that impacts everything: the spiritual world of angels, demons, principalities and powers. What does the Bible reveal about this world? Do we influence it, and what role does it play in our lives? In our Gospel mission, we can never forget that God has included us in his plan to overthrow the Kingdom of Satan! This series will equip us to understand and take our place in this very real battle.

## **SERMON; TEMPTATION | LUKE 4:1-13**

MAY 7, 2017

**SERMON THEME// Our greatest weapon against the spiritual attack of temptation is the Word of God.**

### **LEADER//**

We are calling out the works of the Devil during this sermon series. This means we are getting his attention, and by your Growth Group participating this study – your group is also putting themselves in his crosshairs.

Understand this, acknowledge it, and be ready for his attack. Know that it will come into their lives and into your group. Pray for protection, clarity, and unity as your group moves through the weeds of this sermon series.

### **OPENING UP//** *Start with prayer*

1. Since the start of this sermon series, do you feel like the Devil's spiritual attack has increased in your life?
2. Now that we are a few sermons into this series, what questions do you still have or are now coming up?
3. What is the biggest temptation for people in our world today?

### **DIGGING DEEPER//**

We're looking at a passage where Satan himself comes on the scene. Of course, he is no match for Jesus. Jesus wins. Every time. But, we are going to be talking about the enemy in real terms – so guard your hearts and minds knowing this – and remember: Jesus wins every single time.

The Temptation of Jesus is mentioned in all the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke), although only Matthew and Luke go into detail about this interaction. We're looking at Luke's account. Let's read that now.



## Luke 4:1-13 (ESV)

### The Temptation of Jesus

4 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness <sup>2</sup> for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." <sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup> And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, <sup>6</sup> and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup> And Jesus answered him, "It is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God,  
and him only shall you serve."

<sup>9</sup> And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,  
to guard you,'

<sup>11</sup> and

"On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a stone."

<sup>12</sup> And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup> And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

- Take a moment to pray over this text, asking God to use this text to continue to shape your life as you take the word *preached* and make it the word *lived*.
- Before we watch the sermon video, take a moment and go in a circle having each person answer this question: *Why does Jesus quote Scripture, and not just command Satan to go away?*

### SERMON DISCUSSION VIDEO//

- As you watch the sermon discussion video, take note of what you found intriguing or insightful as you hear Pastor Ryan discuss the sermon he preached.

### THE WORD PREACHED//

- Pastor Ryan talked about how our defense against Satan is not our conscience, but God's Word. Do you think people would find that offensive? If so, why?
- Are you surprised to see Satan quote Scripture? What does this tell you about how the world can/does/will use the Bible?



- Why did Pastor Ryan call Satan's patience his "great strength"?

## **THE WORD LIVED//**

- Pastor Ryan said that, "Nobody loved, valued, revered, submitted to, or used Scripture like Jesus did."
  - How much would you say you "love" Scripture?
  - How much would you say you "use" Scripture? [Swing the Sword?]
  - What do your answers say about how available you are to Satan's attacks?
- Pastor Ryan made the argument that demons can't read our minds, but they don't need to because they see our actions and hear our words. Discuss this a little bit more: Do you agree with him, what would you push back on or add to?
- What do you do when you are tempted to doubt God's provisions for your life? Or to what Scripture do you turn?
- How do you know when you, personally, have succumbed to Satan's temptations to veer from the plan God has for your life?
- In your own heart, what things are you tempted to put in God's place? What Scripture could you use to dethrone those idols?
- Where do you serve Jesus in your life? How are you growing to make serving Jesus not just something *in* your life, but something you do *with* your life?

## **CLOSE IN PRAYER//**

### **LEADER//**

As you close in prayer, this sermon series discussion will definitely benefit from an extra measure of prayer. Pray for protection for your group and your group's families, pray for Peace Church as we enter into a time of looking at this subject more closely, and pray for the pastors as they immerse themselves in this material to preach better sermons.

