

Forgive Me, I'm Human

James 1:12-15, 1 John 2:16, Hebrews 4:15, Romans 7:18-20

Temptation is part of every person's world. Every person is faced with temptation because we live in real worlds. Every person at some point has given in to temptation. You could have been tempted to stay in bed. Maybe you were tempted to eat a big greasy pizza. Maybe you are tempted to call someone you said that you would never call, or text someone you said that you wouldn't text again. Maybe you are tempted to sleep with your boyfriend or girlfriend. Maybe you are tempted to settle down, draw back, take it easy, go home, run away. There is no shortage of ways that we can be tempted.

We should always understand that temptation is not something in and of itself that should cause guilt and condemnation. Temptation is not sin. It is when we bow to temptation that we sin.

It's so easy to start to feel like a temptation is too overwhelming – that you've already messed up you might so you might as well keep on messing up. Temptation will deceive you into believing there really is no other way and that you are just too weak. So you just keep on giving in.

However, we have hope. We do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize, but was in all points tempted, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus understands. He understands the battles we face. Maybe our temptations vary, but the truth is Jesus understands every single one of them, because he was tempted in the same way as you and I, but he did it without sin

That is why our hope is not in our ability to do better, to do good, or to tough it out. Our hope is in who Christ is and what he has done for us.

You have the victory in Jesus name. You are on the winning side!!

Church Highlights

- Sunday Night Live
- Hillsong Conference 2016
- Ps Brian's Book "Live, Love, Lead"

Pray Together

- Salvations, that people come to know Jesus
- Pastor Brian and Bobbie Houston
- Hillsong Conference USA

Nation Builders

We can make a difference as a connect group by praying for the Nation Builders causes we support and by giving together. Our offering extends the reach of our church locally to reach and influence the world for Jesus.

Forgive Me, I'm Human

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

- Q What are some of the things – good and bad – that come with being human?
- Q As well as being fully God, Jesus was fully human. What things about being human are you glad Jesus shares with us?
- Q What difference does that make, do you think?

Temptation

- Q What are some of your trivial temptations? *E.g. chocolate.*
- Q In what circumstances are you more susceptible to temptation?

Victory

- Q What areas have you gained victory in your Christian life?
- Q What have you discovered helps you achieve victory in areas of temptation?

Activity (Leaders Note. Only do this one if your group is mature enough to do it). Break into twos or threes. Pray for each other about areas each person needs to gain victory.

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical world view

Read James 1:12-15 in a normal translation and in The Message

- Q What stands out to you here? What questions does it trigger?
- Q What's the difference between testing (v12) and temptation (v13)?
- Q What do we learn from the sequence of steps into sin in vv14-15?

Read 1 John 2:15-17

- Q What do you think each of the three lusts in this passage really is?
- Q What do you think of the idea that every temptation and sin can be identified as one of these three lusts?

Read Hebrews 4:14-16

- Q Why does this passage describe Jesus as a high priest? Why is that relevant to the topic of sin and temptation?
- Q Why is it important Jesus was tempted in every way we are yet did not sin?
- Q How can we get help as we deal with sin in our lives?

Growing Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders

A Leader's Temptations

- Q What temptations do you think leaders uniquely face? (**Leader's Tip:** Think of temptations that come with power and prominence).
- Q Can you think of some biblical or real-life examples of leaders getting this wrong or right?
- Q What has been your own journey with these leader's temptations?

Helping Others

- Q What strategies have you found work when helping someone gain victory over temptation and sin?
- Q What are helpful and unhelpful stances to have about sin in our present world?
- Q What do you think of the idea "we want to be known for what we're for not for what we're against".

Pastoral Care

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people through life's challenges
- With their permission, should anyone in your connect group experience sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, or surgeries, please contact our church office:
Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500, Newcastle 02 4927 1888