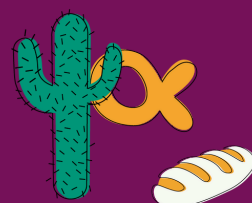


TESTED BY TEMPTATION



SERVICE PLAN

THEME

Some temptations really test us, and some don't

KEY TAKEAWAY

May we recognise what temptation really tests us and stay strong trying not to cause others to be tested beyond their resistance.

FROM THE BIBLE

Luke 14:1-14

Jesus is tested in the wilderness

1 Corinthians 9:9-13

Be careful what you do

TALK

Some people find some things more testing to resist the temptation of than others!!

Set the Scene

I have a plate of chocolate here – on the plate are four types of chocolate:

- Dark
- White
- Milk
- Orange

Let me tempt you by offering these to you. Select a few people to offer them to and ask why they choose the one they did.

At the end of your few selected people leave the plate with some chocolate on by the side of a person and ask them to resist temptation for the whole of the service. Great to go back at the end of the service and see how they have got on and then remind everyone of the theme 'Tested by Temptation'

For some the Dark Chocolate was not a test, not a temptation, easy not to fall for this.

For others the Orange chocolate was an enormous test, so easy to fall into Temptation when offered this, give me more I hear them say. For me White Chocolate holds no temptation.

For the person with the plate of temptation right next to them, initially they can resist the temptation but over time because it is right next to them they cannot resist and eat the lot!

(particularly good to do this in Lent and ask who has given up Chocolate for Lent and wave the plate in front of them or with some inside knowledge approach someone you know who has given up Chocolate in Lent and see if they are Tempted!!)

Go Deeper

And so, it is in life some things are easy to resist but others really are tough.
May we know what are tough and resist staying strong like Jesus did.
May we not let that temptation stay near us, around us, so we eventually fall.
May we not cause others to be tested too much and fall into temptation by what we do.
May we stay strong in the power of the Holy Spirit just as Jesus did.

Bible Verses

Luke 14:1-14 – Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

- 2** Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, u left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.
- 3** The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, z tell this stone to become bread."
- 4** Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"
- 5** "The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.
- 6** And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, c and I can give it to anyone I want to.
- 7** If you worship me, it will all be yours."
- 8** Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"
- 9** The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here.
- 10** For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully;
- 11** they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'
- 12** Jesus answered, "It is said: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
- 13** When the devil had finished all this tempting, g he left him until an opportune time.
- 14** Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

1 Corinthians 9:9-13 – Be careful that what you do doesn't cause others to be tested too much

- 9** Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.
- 10** For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols?
- 11** So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge.
- 12** When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.
- 13** Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

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