

Taking It Home:

When back-country enthusiasts set out to explore the wilderness on a back-packing adventure they spend a great deal of time in preparation. To help stand in the face of temptation, it's important for Christians to get a G.R.I.P.

G — Get alone with God

Hebrews 2:18 says that “because [Jesus] suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”

You have a God who understands your temptation.

R — Read God's Word

Jesus responded to temptation by quoting God's Word. Find strength and solace in God's Word.

Read Psalm 19:7

I — Imitate Christ

Read Ephesians 5:1

P — Persevere

Paul wrote to Timothy, “Run from all these evil things, and follow what is right and good. Pursue a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness.”

1 Timothy 6:11; NLT)

Don't give in to temptation. Flee from it. You can have victory when you get a G.R.I.P.

The Test

Notes:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of November 18, 2012

Mark 1:12-13

Quick Review:

In this week's sermon, Pastor Matthew talked about the temptation of Christ in the wilderness. In His baptism Jesus identified with man's failure and sin. His connection to the human condition continues with the onslaughts of Satan in the wilderness temptations. Temptation is a normal part of the Christian life and should be anticipated, yet we can stand in confidence when we lean on God's Word to defend against the onslaught of the enemy.

My Story:

Would you rather be lost in the middle of the jungle or in the inner-city of New York?

Describe a time when you were in danger in a wilderness (e.g., snake sighting, bears outside of your tent, being charged by a rhino, etc.).

The Gospel of Mark doesn't directly address the three temptations of Christ that are developed in Matthew and Luke. Instead, Mark seems to suggest that the life of Christ is marked by temptation and warfare throughout rather than in one, brief episode. Would you say that temptation is a daily part of your life or something that only happens occasionally? Are there seasons in your life when temptation seems stronger? Why do you think that is/isn't the case?

Growing Deeper:

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13

What are the temptations that you face that are uniquely yours?

Read 1 John 2:16

As you read this passage, what seem to be the primary sources of lust/temptation that we face?

The original temptation of mankind came in the Garden of Eden.

Read Genesis 3:1-6

Connect the dots between this passage and 1 John 2:16. How was the temptation of Adam and Eve in the Garden similar to the cravings listed in 1 John?

Now, consider the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness listed in Luke 4. How does Jesus' experience compare to ours?

Luke 4:3

Luke 4:5-6

Luke 4:9-11

How did Jesus respond to the temptation of the devil (cf. Luke 4:4, 8, and 12)?