



Well Prayed

Lead us not into Temptation

There is an enemy out there who aims to lead us into temptation, BUT, there is also a Savior out there who loves to provide us a way out. Check out Sunday's message and learn how to stay one step ahead of temptation.

Scripture:

"And don't let us yield to temptation,
but rescue us from the evil one."

Matthew 6:13

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. During that time the devil came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.' But Jesus told him, 'No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, 'If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.' Jesus responded, 'The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.' Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 'I will give it all to you,' he said, 'if you will kneel down and worship me.' 'Get out of here, Satan,' Jesus told him. 'For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.' Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.'" Matthew 4:1-11

"Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
¹⁶ for through him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see

and the things we can't see—
such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He existed before anything else,
and he holds all creation together.

¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church,
which is his body.

He is the beginning,
supreme over all who rise from the dead.

So he is first in everything.

¹⁹ For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,

²⁰ and through him God reconciled
everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth
by means of Christ's blood on the cross."

Colossians 1:15-20

Icebreaker and Intro Questions:

1. What is your favorite guilty pleasure song (the song you might be embarrassed if someone saw you singing in the car by yourself)?
2. Spend a few moments sharing any lessons you've learned from this series. What are some ways you've grown in your experience of prayer throughout this series?
3. What resonated with you from Sunday's service? (Sermon, scripture, song, etc.)

Discussion Questions

4. Read Matthew 6:13 together as a group. Have you ever prayed this before? What are your thoughts on this prayer?
5. Give everyone a few minutes to read Matthew 4:1-11 on their own. Jot down some notes of what we learn from Jesus' experience of temptation. Share what is challenging and comforting to you.
6. Michael shared that, "the stakes are higher than we realize," when it comes to sin. How have you seen the consequences of sin to be real?
7. Michael also shared how our decisions carry momentum. How does this challenge you when you think about decisions you will make this week?
8. In the end, Jesus was and is victorious over temptation and death itself. How can we allow this to give us hope?
9. While it's not part of Jesus' model prayer in Matthew 6, traditionally, the Lord's Prayer ends with these words: "For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours forever. Amen." Have someone read Colossians 1:15-20 out loud. How do these phrases help you understand Jesus – his kingdom, power, authority, and glory?
10. Close your time of prayer thanking God – for being willing to teach us how to pray, for being willing to be with us, and for being at the center of everything.

This week:

- Keep using the words of Jesus' prayer in Matthew 6 to guide your prayer times. Pray these words slowly, thoughtfully, and allow your body, mind and spirit to be focused on God as you say the words.
- The theme of temptation can touch on places of deep hurt and wounding. If you need guidance to navigate unhealthy patterns, please reach out to us at care@wschurch.org. We want to be a place where it's okay to not be okay and we'd be honored to walk alongside of you or give additional resources.
- Join us in praying and seeking God's guidance during this unique season. We want to turn our attention to God and ask for the peace, justice, and reconciliation of his kingdom to come to earth. A guide to direct your prayer can be found at www.wschurch.org/pray.
- We've put together several excellent resources for you to use during the Well-Prayed teaching series at West Side. Check out several Bible reading plans, video resources, and prayer tools at wschurch.org/resources.

Notes: