

## GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

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*Use the following questions below for individual or group study. Begin in prayer, inviting the Spirit to speak during this time.*

Pastor Adam talked about besetting sins - persistent, deeply rooted sins which trap us, or recurring temptations which consistently reemerge in our lives. Is the idea of a besetting sin something new or something already known to you? Does it ring true to your own personal experience? Why is it important to name these sins or temptations as specifically as we can?

How would you define temptation in your own words?

Consider and discuss each of these 4 truths and the accompanying scripture:

**1. It is not a sin to be tempted** (Heb 4:15)

What is the difference between the two? When does something go from temptation to sin? Should temptation lead to feelings of guilt?

**2. God does not tempt us** (James 1:13-15)

What is the difference between a temptation and a trial? Why doesn't God tempt us? What does this teach us about God?

**3. There is always a way out** (1Cor 10:13)

Do you believe that this is really true? Why/why not? Think about a recent temptation or sin in your life, was there a way out? Think about it again, was there even more than just one way out? Why can we trust God to always provide exits for us?

**4. No one is above temptation** (Pr 16:18, 1Cor 10:12)

Why is it dangerous (and false!) to think we are above temptation or sin in any area? How is this kind of thinking itself a temptation, or even a sin? Are there any areas in your life where you're living like you are above temptation?

Are any of these particularly challenging for you to accept? Do any fill you with hope or bring comfort? Do any change how you view yourself or God? Is there one you need to remember or pay special attention to?

Take time this week to ask the Holy Spirit and trusted friends to help you identify where you might be trapped (besetting sin/recurring temptation). Be gracious with yourself in the process. Gently and humbly acknowledge this reality to yourself and to God, then identify one trusted person with whom you can share it.

Close by saying the Lord's Prayer (Matt 6:9-13)

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