

# Lenten Small Group Study Guide

## TOGETHER WE PRAY

*“And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil”*

### CONNECT (15 MIN)

### WEEK 5: MAR 17–MAR 23

#### WELCOME

- Welcome everyone in your group. Check in on those who are missing today
- Talk to the group about your next steps. Would you like to continue? Would you like to volunteer this summer for “All in for the Kids”. Maybe you would like to have a summer meet up.

#### *The Lord’s Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the Glory, forever. Amen Matthew 6:9-13

### CULTIVATE (5 MIN) - WATCH OR LISTEN TO VIDEO

[stlukesumc.com/lentweek5](http://stlukesumc.com/lentweek5)

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#### JAMES 1:13-15

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

#### MATTHEW 4:1

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted[a] by the devil.

#### HEBREWS 4:15-16

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

**GROUP VALUES:** It’s important that you agree on the values you want to have in your group, such as openness, authenticity, and confidentiality. Honoring these values together creates a safe and healthy group environment.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35 MIN)

Consider the temptations that Jesus' faced and that Pastor Rob highlights in the opening video. Do any of these resonate with you? Specifically:

- Using your power to get what you want
- Putting God to the test
- Need for control

Today we are talking about sin, temptation, and evil...some loaded topics! How have these things been part of your faith journey? Have they been a main focus or less frequently acknowledged? Have they caused fear or confusion? Has your orientation to these things shifted at all over the years?

Scripture Study:

- Read the three passages for this week, back-to-back. After you read them, consider:
- What contradictions do you notice? What might those differences have to teach us about how God relates to temptation?
- What do these passages tell us about our relationship with God, especially when we face temptation or evil?
- Hebrews 4 tells us to boldly approach God's throne of Grace when we need mercy. When have you been in a position to do this? What might stop us from approaching God when we are in need of mercy?

Sermon Discussion:

- Consider the tension in this line of the prayer when we ask God to not lead us into temptation. Do you think that this phrase implies that God DOES lead us into temptation? If not, what might this mean and why do you think we pray this?
- Evil can be both personal and communal. Share some examples of communal evil that you have witnessed or been made aware of.
- The challenging thing about evil is that we all are susceptible to participating in it. But, if we can create harm, then we also have the ability to heal harm. What does it look like for you to actively participate in healing harm?

## CHANGE THE WORLD - (5 MIN)

As Pastor Rob mentioned there is a lot of need this summer for helping our children. Last year we had to turn away 150 kids because we didn't have enough help. There is also a lot of help needed for Freedom school. Many options are available and it doesn't have to be everyday. Whatever you can do would be a great a help. [stlukesumc.com/allin](http://stlukesumc.com/allin)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## CLOSING PRAYER:

Close your last session today with reciting The Lord's Prayer together.