

IT IS WRITTEN

Loving God's Word

Focus When we love God's Word, we let the Scriptures read us. This means we allow Scripture to correct us so we can walk with God in all He has for us.

Fun Did you watch the Super Bowl? If yes, who did you cheer for? If not, what did you do on Sunday night while it aired on TV?

Review Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 10:6–14

1 Corinthians 10:6–14 is an example of how to let the Scriptures read us. A temptation is a promise that doesn't come from God and is therefore a lie. Temptations stem from idolatry in our lives—areas in our hearts in which we love something else more than God (James 1:13–15). There are three common temptations we all face daily:

- *Sexual Immorality* (1 Corinthians 10:8; Numbers 25:1–18; Romans 2:4)
This is a very common temptation because we are bombarded with thousands of sexual images every day. Any type of sexual sin is idolatry because we're placing our desires above what God says is best for us.
- *Tempting Christ* (1 Corinthians 10:9; Numbers 21:4–7)
We tempt (or "test") Christ when we believe what God has done for us is not good enough. We want more, so we try to find a way to get what we want on our own.
- *Complaining* (1 Corinthians 10:10; Numbers 14 and 17)
The Israelites complained after God led them out of Egypt and into the wilderness. When we complain, we disregard the promises of God. Often, we give in to complaining when someone else gets something that we want.

When temptation comes, our flesh doesn't want an escape; it wants to indulge in the pleasure of sin. We escape temptation by choosing, through a conscious act of our

wills, to believe the promises of God; and also by choosing to believe what God has for us is better than the sin and its consequences. (1 Corinthians 10:13; Jude 20–21)

Discuss

1. What stood out to you from this message?
2. What is your background with the Bible? Did you grow up believing it was a collection of stories? A rule book? The living Word of God? Mythology? Or something else?
3. How did your answer to question #2 impact your journey in coming to God? How does it impact your willingness to receive correction from Scripture?
4. Look at the three common temptations mentioned by Pastor Marcus. How does selfishness play into each of these temptations?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12–13. What are some practical things that help you overcome temptation?

Take Home As we conclude, remember the following:

- The Scriptures are for our encouragement, but we must also allow them to “read us” to bring correction.
- Temptation stems from idolatry, which is an outgrowth of selfishness.
- We escape temptation by choosing what God has for us because we believe it’s better than the pleasures, and eventually the consequences, of sin.

Pray

Ask God to show group members the things in their lives that they love more than Him.

New Leader Tip Study the members of your group. When you see a talent, skill or a gift in someone, look for ways that they might be able to share it in the group setting. Then, invite them to participate! The small-group setting is where many people learn to use their gifts because it feels safe and non-threatening.