

# The Good Fight Against Temptation (2/4/24)

**Main Verses:** Matthew 18:7-9

**Key Verse:** Matthew 18:8

**'Takeaway':** Since we will always face temptations, Jesus wants to teach and empower us to do whatever it takes to say "no" to sin and "yes" to God.

**Getting Started:** Have you ever been tempted? Have you ever wanted to do something even though you knew it was the wrong thing to do?



**READ** Matthew 18:7-9 (or have older kids help read).

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- What is a temptation?
- Is Jesus telling us to hurt ourselves here?
- What is Jesus telling us about temptations?

Elementary:

- What is temptation?
- Is Jesus telling us to hurt ourselves? (To cut off a hand or foot or to tear out an eye?)
- What is Jesus telling us about temptations, the world, and our response to them?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses :

Toddler/PreK:

- A temptation is anything that tries to get us to do something other than what God wants us to do.
- We will always face temptations.
- Jesus is using hyperbole (i.e., an exaggerated statement used to make a point) when he describes how seriously we need to take and resist temptations.
- The image of losing a hand or foot is Jesus' way of asking us, "How far will you go, or what are you willing to give up, in order to honor God in your life?"
- Jesus is telling us in these verses that we need to learn from him and follow him so that **through** him, we can resist temptation and live for God.

Elementary:

- We will always face temptations. A temptation is anything that tries to get us to do something other than what God wants us to do.
- Jesus is using hyperbole (i.e. an exaggerated statement used to make a point) when describing how seriously we need to take and resist temptations.
- The image of losing a hand or foot is Jesus' way of asking us, "How far will you go, or what are you willing to give up, in order to honor God in your life?"
- Through faith in him, Jesus teaches us how to resist temptations and to live the way God wants us to live.
- Learning to resist temptation will be an ongoing process in our lives. In Jesus, we can be victorious over this struggle. He will teach us and help us.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God. Thank him that he always helps us when we face temptations. Ask God to help you learn and grow in him, and to teach you how to say no to sin and yes to God, even when it's hard.

(Elementary) Talk to God. Thank him for sending Jesus, his Son. Thank him that through faith in Jesus we can learn from Jesus to say no to sin and yes to God, even when it's hard. Ask him to help you to hear his voice and obey him.