March 8, 2026

1 Group

Do you ever find yourself surprised that temptation is still part of your life?

2

We never outgrow temptation.

3

Temptation: an enticement to sin

4

We will never outgrow temptation.
But we can learn not to fall for it.

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As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.
Matthew 3:16

6Lent JTTC_BoxKey_...

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:17

7Lent JTTC_BoxKey_...

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.
Matthew 4:1-2

8Lent JTTC_BoxKey_...

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."
Matthew 4:3

9

The temptation to comfort.
Meeting a legitimate desire in an illegitimate way.

10

The tempter says, "You can't trust God to meet your needs. God is holding out on you."

11

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
Matthew 4:4

12

God is smarter than you.

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God is smarter than you.
God has a plan for sex.

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God is smarter than you.
God has a plan for sex.
God can be trusted.

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Everyone dies with sexual brokenness in their life.

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The temptation to meet a legitimate desire in an illegitimate way.

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The temptation to meet a legitimate desire in an illegitimate way. Jesus is saying, “Even when I am hungry, God can be trusted.”

18

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

Matthew 4:5

19

“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “ ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”

Matthew 4:6

20

The temptation to control. Demanding that God do your will.

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God, if you don’t ____ then I _____.

22

This way of thinking is a temptation. God can be trusted.

23

Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Matthew 4:7

24

When I trust God, I don’t put him to the test.

25

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Matthew 4:8-9

26

The temptation to compromise. Separating obedience to God from the worship of God.

27

Every offer of power that comes with compromise is from the devil.

28

Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”

Matthew 4:10

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When you trust God, you never separate worship and obedience.

30

Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Matthew 4:11

31

The temptation to:
Comfort – meeting a legitimate need in an illegitimate way
Control – demanding God do your will
Compromise – separating obedience and worship

32

How do we fight temptation?

1. Let God's Word speak directly to your temptations.
2. Recognize that every temptation is a test of trust.

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Ultimately, we can overcome temptation because Jesus overcame it in our place.

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March 1, 2026

1 Group Easter'26_1...

2 Easter'26_1920x10...

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed.
Ephesians 5:3

3 Easter'26_1920x10...

Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking.
Ephesians 5:4

4 Easter'26_1920x10...

Let no one deceive you.
Ephesians 5:6

5 Easter'26_1920x10...

Do not get drunk on wine.
Ephesians 5:18

6 Easter'26_1920x10...

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
Ephesians 5:5

7 Easter'26_1920x10...

8 Easter'26_1920x10...

Try Harder

9 Easter'26_1920x10...

10 Easter'26_1920x1...

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children…
Ephesians 5:1

11 Easter'26_1920x10...

12

How are we to follow God's example? As dearly loved

13

14

…and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
Ephesians 5:2

15

Love is sacrifice

16 CR_Info Slide.jpg

"I'm willing to give up what I want so you can have what you need – because that's what Jesus did for me."

17 CR_Info Slide.jpg

Love is emptying

18

But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Ephesians 5:3

19

Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

Ephesians 5:4

20

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18

21

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What do I want to trade?

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24 CR_Info Slide.jpg

Feb 22, 2026

1 Group

- Baptized into the Catholic church
- Elementary school in a traditional Lutheran church
- MS and HS in a modern Lutheran church
- Interdenominational college

2

3

Liturgical and non-Liturgical

4

Liturgical churches emphasize fixed prayers, prescribed patterns of worship, and the church calendar.

5

6

Non-Liturgical do not follow the church calendar and emphasize spontaneity, flexibility, and local leadership.

7

Lent: The 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

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Where did Lent come from?
What does Lent invite us to do?

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1. The early church had no power.

11

2. In 313 AD Emperor Constantine of Rome became a Christian

12

3. By 1000 AD, Lent, the 40 days before Easter, became a season of preparation and renewal.

13

What does Lent invite us to do?

14

Lent is a season of repentance and renewal.

15

Repent:
- Turn to God
- Change your mind
- Re-think your Thinking
- Turn from what you trust in other than God
- Re-acknowledge Jesus as King

16

From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."
Matthew 4:17

17

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.
Luke 15:7

18

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"
Mark 1:15

19

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Repentance is how we come to faith in Jesus and how we grow with Jesus.

21

Over 1,000 years ago, the church recognized that Christians need a dedicated season of repentance.

22

But why do Christians need this?

23

Trusting God isn't something we do once. It's something we return to again and again through repentance.

24

When was the last time you recognized you needed to repent? What was the specific situation?

25

26

The purpose of Lent is to help us discover where we need to repent.

27

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."
Joel 2:12

28

Fasting: saying no to something good so you can say a greater yes to Jesus

29

Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity.
Joel 2:13

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For 2,000 years Christians have connected fasting and repentance.

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Lent: A Journey to the Cross, is our invitation to join them.

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Fasting: What is the Spirit inviting you to say ‘no’ to, that you might say ‘yes’ to Jesus?

- Food (not eating certain foods)
- Digital Fast
- Alcohol/Dessert/Sugar

34

How? Take 10 minutes without your phone and ask God to bring to mind what you might say ‘no’ to for the next 40 days.

35

gracebible.church/lent

36

37

We can’t become ‘like him for others’ without repentance. Lent will help.

38

39

Fasting: What is the Spirit inviting you to say ‘no’ to, that you might say ‘yes’ to Jesus?

40