

## 7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

**Lesson Plan:** The Temptation of Jesus (pt. 2)

**Learning Goal:** Students should understand the basic process that humans go through regarding sin and temptation. Although the temptation to sin is universal, God has provided a means to resist.

**Question:** What is temptation? What do you do when you are tempted?

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

Opening Video: "Slow Fade" by Casting Crowns

### What is temptation?

Dictionary definition:

**tempt** [tempt] verb (used with object)

1. to entice or allure to do something often regarded as unwise, wrong, or immoral.
2. to attract, appeal strongly to, or invite
3. to put (someone) to the test

My definition: anything that takes our eyes/focus off of God;

anything that lures us away from God and God's plan for our lives

### Where does temptation originate?

From the Devil?

From God?

*Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*

(James 1:13-15 ESV)

### Life Cycle of Sin:

There is a life-cycle of sin.

We all remember the life cycle of a caterpillar

(Egg, larvae/caterpillar, pupa/chrysalis, butterfly)

Sin has a life cycle.

#### 1. Lured by our own evil desire

It begins when we are lured - not by God, not by Satan, but "by our own desire."

Remember way back to Genesis. Adam and Eve in the garden - she saw that the fruit was pleasing to the eye (it was desirable) and she ate it

We are all marked by sin and since the very beginning, we fight the pull to follow our desire. This is temptation - it is that desire for something that is not of God

It is the seed that is planted in our minds and in our hearts

The temptation is that first glance

that sudden rise of anger

that quick thought of deception  
 that seemingly innocent “what if...”  
 “what if I slipped this in my pocket without paying...”  
 “what if I didn’t tell my parents about...”  
 “what if just said I was out with friends...”  
 “what if I told the officer I was rushing to the hospital...”

It’s the seed. It’s not sin . . . yet.

The Devil often tempts us by taking something that is of God and twisting it just a little

Food	Relationships	Money
Love	Success	Beauty

## 2. **Desire is conceived (the seed planted)**

But if the seed is planted and takes root, it conceives and gives birth to sin.

We take those initial thoughts and we begin to go over them again and again. We start meditating on them and planning out how we might do them. Jesus says that, at this point, we’ve already committed the sin in our heart, even though we haven’t acted on it.

We’ve planted the seed and started watering it.

## 3. **Give birth to sin**

This is the moment we act on our desire.

We decide to actually do the thing that we have been thinking about.

## 4. **Sin fully grown brings death**

And sin’s consequences are always the same - death.

What kind of death?

Physical death (our sin has consequences that can sometimes be deadly)  
 Emotional Death (our relationship to ourselves)  
 Relational Death (our relationships with other people)  
 Spiritual Death (the biggest casualty is our relationship with God)

## **What do we do? (Quote Scripture)**

### 1. **Flee**

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. <sup>13</sup> No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

(1 Corinthians 10:12-13 ESV)

People often misquote saying that: “God will not give us anything we can’t handle.”

All the time, God gives us things that we can’t handle so that we will depend on him more and more. However, God will not let you be tempted beyond your ability.

Look for the way out. Flee. Get away. Run.

God will ALWAYS provide a way out, but we must look for it.

**2. Put on the full armor of God**

*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.*

(Ephesians 6:11-18 ESV)

**3. Take every thought Captive**

*For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.*

(2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ESV)

**4. Meditate on God's Goodness and Truth**

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.*

(Philippians 4:8 ESV)

**Good saying:**

Sow a thought, reap an action  
Sow an action, reap a habit  
Sow a habit, reap a character  
Sow a character, reap a destiny

---

**Lesson Summary /Review:**

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Temptation
- Explain the “life cycle” of sin.



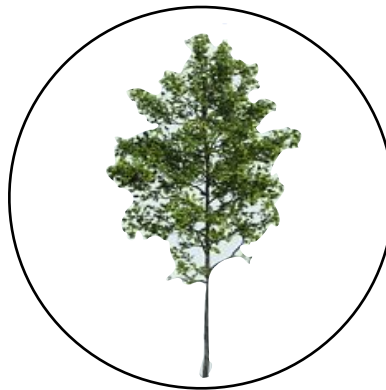
1. Lured by our own evil desire.



4. Sin fully grown brings death.



2. Desire is conceived.



3. Gives birth to sin.