



# NOTIFICATION: TEMPTATION AHEAD SERIES OVERVIEW



## SERIES AT A GLANCE

### TEACHING THEME

Moral Boundaries\*  
*(details on back)*

### SERIES OVERVIEW

When a phone battery is running low, a notification pops up with a warning. Temptation pops up everywhere we go: school, hanging out with friends, even when we are home alone. While we don't get a notification right before every temptation, we are actually already given lots of notifications in the Bible to always be alert for approaching temptations, prepare to overcome them, and resist them by turning to God. When your next temptation comes up, will you choose to turn to Jesus to overcome it or dismiss the warning?

### SERIES GOALS TO SHARE EACH WEEK

- OPEN COMMUNICATION - We know talking about sex can feel awkward, but we want to open up the lines of communication because we care and it's important.
- THIS IS FOR YOU - Even in middle school, this applies to you because things like crushes, attractions, temptations, desires – they all spin off from this topic of sex.
- JESUS CONNECTION: God knew we'd give in to temptation and sin, so He sent Jesus to rescue us and pay the penalty for our sins.
- RECAP main points shared in series so far *(included in message resource)*

## WEEK BY WEEK

### WEEK 1: MARCH 7, 2021

- **MAIN POINT:** Sex is good and sex is powerful, so respect it.
- **MAIN SCRIPTURE(S):** Genesis 1:27-28 & 2:24
- **SECONDARY TEACHING POINTS:**
  - o God created sex and it's good.
  - o Sex is designed to be enjoyed by a man and woman committed to each other in marriage.
  - o When sex is used in a right way, it's extremely powerful in a good way. When sex is used in a wrong way, it's extremely powerful in a bad way. So respect it.
  - o Attractions and temptations are not sin, but acting on lust or engaging in sexual behavior outside of God's design of marriage is sin.

### WEEK 2: MARCH 14

- **MAIN POINT:** A screen isn't a loophole around temptation and sin; it can be a trap that's just as dangerous and addictive.
- **MAIN SCRIPTURE:** 1 Corinthians 6:18-20
- **SECONDARY TEACHING POINTS:**
  - o Though it isn't face-to-face, what happens on your screen is real life.
  - o What can you do to avoid this trap?
    1. Respect others, yourself, and sex.
    2. Honor God with your body, posts, and views.
    3. Run from sexual sin (temptation to use it outside it's intended context of marriage)

### WEEK 3: MARCH 21

- **MAIN POINT:** As Christians we are called to balance living in God's grace and truth.
- **MAIN SCRIPTURES:** Zacchaeus story overview, Romans 2:4, Matthew 19:4-5, Romans 1:26-30
- **TEACHING POINTS (GRACE):**
  - o Zacchaeus example: Zacchaeus was a tax-collector in an anti-tax collector culture. Zacchaeus encountered God's kindness in Jesus before he began following Jesus.
  - o What is Sin? Attractions and temptations are not sin, but acting on lust or engaging in sexual behavior outside of God's design of marriage is sin.
- **TEACHING POINTS (TRUTH):**
  - o Jesus and the Bible define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.
  - o The Bible defines same-sex relationships as sin.
  - o God loves all people but hates all sin. We all need Jesus. We have all sinned and all need forgiveness that only Jesus can give to us.

### WEEK 4: MARCH 28

- **MAIN POINT:** We all need accountability – every step you take is a step in the right direction.
- **MAIN SCRIPTURE(S):** Hebrews 4:13-16 & James 5:16
- **NOTE:** During SG time, have opposite gender panel to answer questions
- **TEACHING POINTS:** 5 Steps to Hold Yourself Accountable
  - o Be honest with yourself and others (Hebrews 4:13)
  - o Commit to God's ways (John 14:15)
  - o Invite others to keep you accountable (James 5:16)
  - o Make a Plan (Goals and guardrails)
  - o Rinse and Repeat (When you sin, remember God is forgiving and cheering you on every step you take closer to Him)

## \*TEACHING THEME

### **Moral Boundaries**

Think of moral boundaries like a fence: on one side is all the good, moral behaviors we can freely act on and outside of the fence are the immoral behaviors that will hurt us. Jesus doesn't want us to just see a list of yes and no's, but the Bible does give us moral boundary guidelines because **God defines in the Bible what sin is for us because He knows that boundaries protect us.** God sees a bigger picture for our lives full of hope, joy, peace, freedom, etc. Learning how to protect our bodies and emotions, **to honor God's plan for sex and morality,** and respect ourselves and others - **it's not about restrictions, it's actually about living more in God's freedom.**