Footprints of Faith

Testimony and Perseverance Through Temptation

Lesson Two: Temptation Is Not Defeat

Facilitator Guide

Purpose: Distinguish experiencing temptation from yielding to it and identify an appropriate response during the struggle.

Readings: Hebrews 4:15–16; Matthew 4:1–11; James 1:13–15.

Opening question: How does noticing the mountain edge differ from stepping toward it?

Conducting the lesson

1. Establish the distinction. Read Hebrews 4. Ask what Jesus' temptation without sin establishes. Connect need with the invitation to seek mercy and grace.

2. Explore the wilderness. Read Matthew 4. Distinguish hunger from the proposed response. Examine what each offer requires and how Jesus answers.

3. Trace the progression. Read James. Identify desire, enticement, and sin without inventing an identical timeline for every experience. Discuss deliberately cultivating wrongdoing.

4. Apply the distinction. Use the fictional message illustration. Ask which response interrupts pursuit and which choices would require honest acknowledgment.

Discussion

1. What is the difference between an unwanted thought and deliberately pursuing it?

2. How can a genuine need be paired with a wrongful means of meeting it?

3. What help could be sought before acting?

Application: Have participants identify a pressure, the action it suggests, and a response that supports faithfulness. Do not ask them to test resistance by entering temptation.

Close: Reaffirm that an urge can remain while a faithful response is chosen. Retain the reflection for the testimony project.

Facilitator reminder: Do not label every intrusive or unwanted thought as chosen sin. Preserve accountability for deliberate responses.