These Christian leaders were part of a team who consulted on the creation of The Gospel Project.

**The Gospel Project Advisory Council Members**

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Tips from Trevin on how to best use this Leader Guide

From one leader to another...

Welcome to The Gospel Project! Think about the awesome responsibility we have every week—to guide people through Bible study so that they have an encounter with the living Christ. I hope that The Gospel Project will provide you with the tools and resources you need as you prayerfully seek to apply the truth of the gospel to the people God has placed in your group.

Here are some things to remember that will help you maximize the usefulness of this Leader Guide:

**Pray.** Pray for your group. Don’t lead in your own strength.

**Adapt.** You know the style of your group. If your group is more discussion-based, then encourage participants to read the lesson ahead of time. Make good use of the “For Further Discussion” questions provided in the Teaching Plan so you can facilitate discussion that stays grounded in the lesson. If you take a more master-teacher approach, then spend a little time each day over the course of the week mastering the Expanded Lesson Content. Select the questions that make the most strategic sense for moving the lesson along.

**Cut.** If it seems to you that the lessons for The Gospel Project provide too much material for one session, you're right. We chose to deliver more than you need and to include the bulk of the lesson in the Personal Study Guide so that you don’t feel pressed to get all the content delivered in the session time itself. Refer your group members to the Personal Study Guide.

**Personalize.** Take the truths expressed in The Gospel Project and enhance them. Add personal stories. Ask penetrating questions that go to the heart of the people you know and love.

**Encourage Preparation.** The Personal Study Guide includes three devotionals, two that prepare the participant for the group time and one that follows up and reinforces the lesson. Challenge your group to work through the lesson and devotionals each week on their own.

**Resource Yourself.** Make good use of the additional resources suggested at the end of every lesson. Download a podcast. Read a blog post or a chapter in a book. Check The Gospel Project blog for weekly updates for teaching tips and further thoughts from our writers.

**Overflow.** Remember...The Gospel Project is not just a curriculum. WE are the project. The gospel is working on us. Don’t let your preparation time be simply about the content you’re going to deliver. Let the truths of God’s Word soak in as you study. A great leader is not a dispenser of information but an overflowing river of gospel passion. Let God work on your heart first, and then pray that He will change the hearts of the people He has entrusted to your care.
In this lesson, we will see that God provides a way for us to be accepted by Him. How? Through Jesus’ living up to the righteous standard God requires of humanity. By obeying God’s Word, Jesus reversed the curse that sin has brought upon God’s people and His creation. Unlike Adam in the garden and Israel in the wilderness, Jesus proved Himself to be the faithful Son who obeys God’s Word.

**Steps to Prepare**

1. Read the main passages for this week’s lesson, recording your insights and questions:
   - Luke 4:40-41

2. Study the Expanded Lesson Content (pp. 80-87).
   - Determine what elements of this lesson are most applicable to your particular group.
   - Consider ways to personalize the lesson content for you and your class.

3. Review the Teaching Plan (pp. 78-79).
   - Refine and adjust the lesson plan based on your group’s particular needs.

4. Pray for the Lord’s guidance as you lead your group through this material.

**Lesson Outline**

1. God the Father affirms that Jesus is uniquely qualified to fulfill the righteousness that He requires of us (Luke 3:21-22).


3. Jesus’ obedience to God’s Word proves His authority to reverse the effects of the fall and restore creation (Luke 4:40-41; cf. 4:16-21,31-39).
Introduce the Lesson

Demonstrate how different religions answer the question related to how one takes part in the afterlife (leader p. 80; personal study p. 66). Announce the summary and goal of the lesson (leader p. 81; personal study p. 66).

1. God the Father affirms that Jesus is uniquely qualified to fulfill the righteousness that He requires of us.

As you read Luke 3:21-22, ask your group to note the Father’s affirmation of Jesus and to consider its significance for Jesus’ life and ministry. Use “Further Commentary” if needed (leader p. 81). Emphasize the natural desire of humans to be accepted and affirmed by others (leader p. 81; personal study pp. 66-67).

- Are you motivated by others’ acceptance and affirmation? What are some ways people seek affirmation from others?

Show that this desire for acceptance is ultimately rooted in the need for us to be accepted by God. Sin makes us unacceptable (leader p. 81; personal study p. 67).

Reinforce the difference between religion and the gospel (see Keller quote, leader p. 82; personal study p. 67).

- Do you struggle with believing the Father has accepted you in Christ? How does understanding the message of Christianity (the gospel) liberate people from bondage to sin?

2. Jesus obeys God at the very point we failed.

Before reading Luke 4:1-13, tell your group to be on the lookout for parallels between Jesus’ temptation and Adam’s in the garden and Israel’s in the wilderness. Use the illustration of the substitute teacher to get across the point that, biblically speaking, the substitute is the real thing (leader p. 83; personal study p. 68). Review the biblical teaching about Adam’s sin.

- In our individualist society, it is difficult for people to understand how one person’s sin can affect other people. Why is it important that we maintain the biblical teaching that Adam’s sin is passed down to us?

For Further Discussion

Do you think that seeking acceptance and affirmation from others is healthy or unhealthy, wise or foolish? Can you think of an occasion when you received acceptance and affirmation from others and you regretted it?

Jesus
The Faithful Son Who Obeys God’s Word
Session 7
Can you think of other examples when God's Word has been misused to justify sin? Have you ever been confused about God’s Word and what God desires of us? How did the Holy Spirit correct your false thinking?

Show how Jesus succeeded in the very place where Adam and Israel (and by extension, all of us) failed (leader p. 84; personal study p. 69).

What Old Testament book did Jesus quote from? What is the context of the verses Jesus quoted, and what do you think His quotes indicated for people in His day? What does that teach us about fighting sin and temptation?

Remind participants that the words God the Father spoke over Jesus upon His baptism are also true of us in Christ (leader p. 85; personal study p. 69).

3. Jesus’ obedience to God’s Word proves His authority to reverse the effects of the fall and restore creation. Read Luke 4:40-41, noting the far-reaching results of Christ’s work. List the effects that sin has unleashed in the world (leader p. 85; personal study p. 70).

To what do unbelieving people attribute all the evil, chaos, and disorder in our world? What does the Bible say is the source of the evil in our world? What do unbelievers think will put an end to the chaos and evil around us? What does the Bible say will put an end to the chaos and evil around us?

Explain the Bible’s teaching that the kingdom is already here but it has not yet fully arrived (leader p. 86; personal study pp. 70-71).

How does a future hope of being in God’s presence where there is no sin, suffering, sorrow, and death help you face sin, suffering, sorrow, and death now?

Conclusion
Conclude the lesson by communicating the mission-focused application of God’s acceptance of us in Christ (leader p. 87; personal study p. 71).

If you believe that you are accepted by God through Christ and that God has affirmed you as His child because of Christ and has set you apart to accomplish His mission in the power of the Holy Spirit, then are you being obedient as God’s child in fulfilling God’s mission?

What are some ways you can join God’s mission to proclaim freedom to those who are under sin’s curse?
Across countries and cultures, people from all walks of life sense deep down that this life is not all there is. If you were to poll your family and friends, you would find that regardless of their ethnicity or culture, most of them harbor a hope for a life beyond this one, a life of eternal peace and joy.

The “holy books” of other religions have offered ways by which a follower may enter into the next life. Islam, for example, teaches that if you follow the Five Pillars, you will enter paradise. Buddhism offers an eightfold path to nirvana (freedom from suffering). Regardless of the religion, the answer is the same: you must do something to become acceptable in order to enter the next world.

The problem with the solutions provided by other religions is that you can never know if you’ve done enough to become acceptable to enter the next life. Tim Keller writes: “Self-salvation through good works may produce a great deal of moral behavior in your life, but inside you are filled with self-righteousness, cruelty, and bigotry, and you are miserable. You are always comparing yourself to other people, and you are never sure you are being good enough. You cannot, therefore, deal with your hideousness and self-absorption through the moral law, by trying to be a good person through an act of the will. You need a complete transformation of the very motives of your heart.”

The gospel provides what the various religions of the world cannot—the kind of assurance of eternal life that transforms our hearts and lives. You see, every person in the world, including you and me, must face the question “What will it take to be acceptable to enter into eternal life?” The religions say there is work we must do. The gospel takes us back to a work that has been done.
Lesson Summary

In today’s lesson, we will see that God provides a way for acceptance through Jesus Christ. How? Through Jesus’ living up to the righteous standard God requires of humanity. By obeying God’s Word, Jesus reversed the curse that sin has brought upon God’s people and His creation. Unlike Adam in the garden and Israel in the wilderness, Jesus proved Himself to be the faithful Son who obeys God’s Word.

1. God the Father affirms that Jesus is uniquely qualified to fulfill the righteousness that He requires of us (Luke 3:21-22).

   21 When all the people were baptized, Jesus also was baptized. As He was praying, heaven opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in a physical appearance like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: You are My beloved Son. I take delight in You!

   We all want to be accepted. Think about it—whether it’s acceptance and affirmation from our parents, peers at school, coworkers, or even strangers, we all want to be accepted and affirmed. Why do you think we take so much time in making sure we look a certain way (fashion), talk a certain way (lingo, jargon), and behave a certain way (cultural etiquette)?

   Are you motivated by others’ acceptance and affirmation? What are some ways people seek affirmation from others?

   The desire to be accepted by others is a distortion of the desire God has placed in each of us to be accepted and affirmed by Him. The ultimate acceptance and affirmation we need comes from God. We know deep in our bones that something is wrong with us. The Bible confirms that feeling of uneasiness, informing us that we are not acceptable to God because of our sin.

   Though many sincere people follow the teachings of various religions in order to be accepted by God, the Bible tells us that our sin makes us unacceptable. One of the Scripture passages from last week’s lesson told us “our best efforts to attain righteousness are in vain” (Isa. 64:6). If even our best deeds are in vain, is there any hope of being accepted and affirmed by God?

   How do people try to overcome the fear of not measuring up to God’s standard? To the standard of people around them?

   God has spoken to us in His Word and through creation. We have rejected His Word and chosen to go our own way. We need God to fix what we broke in order that we might be reconciled to Him.

Further Commentary

“Jesus was not baptized for the forgiveness of sins, as were all the other people whom John baptized. Rather, Jesus was baptized to identify Himself and His ministry with the ministry and message of His forerunner.”

A. Boyd Luter, HCSB Study Bible
The Bible gives us good news. We do not have to fear being rejected by God because God Himself has provided a way by which sinners may be accepted before Him. Luke, the evangelist, records the baptism of Jesus of Nazareth in order to show us that Jesus was uniquely qualified to provide the way for sinners to be accepted before God.

First, Jesus was uniquely qualified to bring us to God because He was the Lord’s anointed, the Messiah-Christ. God had previously promised He would send a Servant who would carry our sorrows and bear our sins (Isa. 53:4-6). The Coming One would be anointed by the Holy Spirit to accomplish God’s mission to seek and save the lost. Luke identifies Jesus as the promised Anointed One (Christ) who came to liberate God’s people from sin’s slavery (Luke 4:16-21; see Isa. 61:1-2).

Second, Jesus was uniquely qualified to bring us to God because He was and is God’s faithful Son, and the Father is pleased with His obedience (Luke 3:22). Jesus is the faithful and obedient Son who was empowered by the Holy Spirit to save God’s people by fulfilling the righteousness God required in order to bring them to God. Though Jesus had never sinned, He identified with His sinful people by being baptized.

Here we see the distinction between religion and the gospel. Religion is about what you must do in order to be accepted before God; Christianity is about what God has done for you in order to accept you. As Tim Keller has said, “In religion, we try to obey the divine standards out of fear. We believe that if we don’t obey we are going to lose God’s blessing in this world and the next. In the gospel, the motivation is one of gratitude for the blessing we have already received because of Christ.”

This is the good news of the gospel—through faith in Christ, the Lord’s anointed, we can be accepted before a holy God. And those whom God accepts He also empowers by His Holy Spirit for obedience and ministry!

Do you struggle with believing the Father has accepted you in Christ? How does understanding the message of Christianity (the gospel) liberate people from bondage to sin?


1 Then Jesus returned from the Jordan, full of the Holy Spirit, and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness 2 for 40 days to be tempted by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over, He was hungry. 3 The Devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

4 But Jesus answered him, “It is written: Man must not live on bread alone.”
5 So he took Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 The Devil said to Him, “I will give You their splendor and all this authority, because it has been given over to me, and I can give it to anyone I want. 7 If You, then, will worship me, all will be Yours.” 8 And Jesus answered him, “It is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.”

9 So he took Him to Jerusalem, had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: He will give His angels orders concerning you, to protect you, 11 and they will support you with their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” 12 And Jesus answered him, “It is said: Do not test the Lord your God.” 13 After the Devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him for a time.

When we think of a substitute, our minds likely take us back to school where the substitute teacher was never as good as the “real thing.” School kids tend to treat the substitute teacher with disrespect. After all, substitutes have little authority because they have no part in establishing the lesson plan and exercising control over the students’ grades.

Our experience of a classroom substitute is quite different than the Bible’s presentation of Jesus as a substitute for sinful humanity. We think of a substitute as a temporary and poor replacement for the “real thing,” but the Bible presents those who came before Jesus as the copies, or types, who pointed to Jesus, who is the real thing.

Let’s go back to the beginning and look at Adam as an example. Adam, the first man, represented us before God. God spoke His word to Adam, letting him know how to live as God’s obedient son (Gen. 2:15-17). Unfortunately, Adam failed; he and Eve listened as the serpent questioned and distorted God’s word, leading them to disobedience (3:1-8). Since he was our representative, when Adam sinned against God, we sinned with him, which made us guilty and unacceptable before a holy God (Rom. 5:12,18-19).

In our individualist society, it is difficult for people to understand how one person’s sin can affect other people. Why is it important that we maintain the biblical teaching that Adam’s sin is passed down to us?

Even today, Satan is still up to his old tricks of distorting God’s Word and deceiving us into thinking it says something other than what God has spoken. Consider the tragic incident of racism and slavery in American history. Professing Christians defended slavery on the basis that Africans

Further Commentary

“The Devil tried to bait Jesus into satisfying His extreme hunger by exercising His divine powers. Jesus’ duty, however, was to suffer and patiently endure hardship as a perfectly obedient human who waited for God’s deliverance and empowerment (Luke 4:1). Jesus answered by citing the written Word of God (Deut. 8:3). The context of this citation deals with Israel’s needs being met in the wilderness for 40 years, physically through the manna and spiritually by the presence and Word of God.”

“The order of the second and third tests is reversed in Luke 4 from Matthew 4. The obvious reason would be that the wider structure of the Gospel of Luke depicted Jesus moving toward Jerusalem, with the final test in Luke taking place on the pinnacle of the temple in Jerusalem.”

A. Boyd Luter, HCSB Study Bible

The Doctrine of Original Sin

Original sin does not refer to Adam’s first sin; it refers to the fact that we have inherited Adam’s guilt, corruption, and condemnation. When Adam sinned, we sinned with Adam (Rom. 5:12). As a result, we stand condemned before a holy God. Therefore, anything we offer God is unacceptable. How does believing this truth help you better understand your need for a Savior?
were less than human. On those grounds, certain Christian theologians defended slavery, even claiming it would help evangelize the heathens!

Can you think of other examples when God’s Word has been misused to justify sin? Have you ever been confused about God’s Word and what God desires of us? How did the Holy Spirit correct your false thinking?

The nation of Israel was also God’s representative people, the descendants of Abraham through whom God would bless the world (Gen. 12:1-3). God made a promise to His people: “Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, although all the earth is Mine, and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation” (Ex. 19:5-6).

As God’s treasured, firstborn son (4:22), Israel was to serve as God’s priests, declaring God’s name to the nations so that the world would know He alone is God. Yet just like Adam, Israel failed to obey God’s Word. So God made them wander in the wilderness for 40 years (Num. 14:33-34).

The Gospels shine a spotlight on Jesus, the Messiah of Israel. He was the true representative and substitute for sinful humanity. Jesus faced the Devil as Adam did, and Jesus fought temptation in the wilderness, just like Israel. But unlike Adam and Israel, Jesus succeeded in the mission. He obeyed God at every point they failed. Jesus is the faithful Adam and the faithful Israel who obeyed God’s Word.

What Old Testament book did Jesus quote from? What is the context of the verses Jesus quoted, and what do you think His quotes indicated for people in His day? What does that teach us about fighting sin and temptation?

Jesus responded to Satan’s temptations by quoting Deuteronomy 8:3; 6:13,16. In these passages, Israel was preparing to cross the Jordan River and enter the promised land. By quoting from Deuteronomy, Jesus identified Himself with Israel. In other words, whereas Israel failed to obey God’s Word as they prepared to cross the Jordan River, Jesus kept God’s Word after crossing through the waters of baptism and fighting temptation—by trusting (and quoting!) the very word God had given to Israel.

Jesus is a faithful representative and substitute because He fulfilled all righteousness. He was obedient to God’s Word at the exact point where Adam and Israel failed. That means Jesus is our faithful representative and substitute too. He has fulfilled all righteousness by being obedient to the Father where you and I have failed.

This is the good news of the gospel. The Father accepts Jesus’ obedience on behalf of those who put their trust in Christ. We are

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Voices from Church History

“[Jesus] submitted to it so that, by experiencing our temptations, he might provoke the evil power and thwart its attack, putting to death the very power that expected to seduce him just as it had Adam in the beginning.”

–Maximus the Confessor (ca. 580-662)
unacceptable before a holy God, but Jesus is acceptable, and God affirms Jesus because He pleased the Father (Luke 3:22). By faith in Jesus Christ, we are acceptable to God and receive the same affirmation. The words the Father uttered over Jesus at His baptism (“You are My beloved Son. I take delight in You!”) are true of us as well.

When you trust Jesus for your acceptance before a holy God, you are liberated from sin’s slavery and curse. After all, this is what Jesus came to do—to restore what sin has destroyed.

3. Jesus’ obedience to God’s Word proves His authority to reverse the effects of the fall and restore creation (Luke 4:40-41; cf. 4:16-21, 31-39).

40 When the sun was setting, all those who had anyone sick with various diseases brought them to Him. As He laid His hands on each one of them, He would heal them. 41 Also, demons were coming out of many, shouting and saying, “You are the Son of God!” But He rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew He was the Messiah.

Because of sin, God’s good creation has been infiltrated by all kinds of evil: disease, death, chaos, and poverty. Sin has tarnished God’s good creation, leaving its awful effects all around us, including in our own bodies that waste away due to age and disease. The Bible goes so far as to say that we are enslaved to sin and its effects (Rom. 6:17-22).

To what do unbelieving people attribute all the evil, chaos, and disorder in our world? What does the Bible say is the source of the evil in our world? What do unbelievers think will put an end to the chaos and evil around us? What does the Bible say will put an end to the chaos and evil around us?

As God’s Messiah, Jesus not only fulfilled all righteousness by identifying with humanity and obeying where we’ve failed, but He also announced the good news of God’s kingdom (Luke 4:42-44). Jesus’ arrival marked the beginning of the kingdom of God, the rule of God where the effects of sin on creation were to be halted and reversed and God’s people were to be liberated from sin’s hold on them.

Since Jesus was the Messiah, anointed by God’s Spirit to accomplish God’s mission, Jesus had authority over all creation (5:1-10; 8:22-25). Jesus displayed this authority when He liberated people from physical bondage by healing their diseases (4:38-40) and from spiritual bondage by casting out their demons (vv. 41-44).

B. B. Warfield, the famous Princeton theologian, described Christ’s work this way: “When our Lord came down to earth He drew heaven

Voices from the Church

“If the Son of God had gone from incarnation to the cross without a life of temptation and pain to test his righteousness and his love, he would not be a suitable Savior for fallen man. His suffering not only absorbed the wrath of God. It also fulfilled his true humanity and made him able to call us brothers and sisters (Heb. 2:17).”

—John Piper
with Him. The signs which accompanied His ministry were but the trailing clouds of glory which He brought from heaven, which is His home. The number of the miracles which He wrought may easily be underrated. It has been said that in effect He banished disease and death from Palestine for the three years of His ministry.  

The Already/Not Yet Nature of God's Kingdom

Jesus’ healings and exorcisms were not only proof of His authority as God’s Messiah, they were also a foretaste of the future arrival of God’s kingdom in its fullness when there would be no more disease and no more evil. The fact that we still experience sickness and evil today, including demon possession, indicates that though Jesus inaugurated the kingdom of God at His first coming, it has not fully arrived. Though there is a sense that in Jesus the kingdom is already here, until Jesus comes again, the kingdom will not yet fully arrive. Only when Jesus returns will there be no more pain, sorrow, disease, death, chaos, or evil (Rev. 21:1-4).

Ed Stetzer uses a popular illustration to describe the “already” and “not yet” nature of God’s kingdom. “As World War II came to a close, there were two important dates. The first one occurred on June 6th, 1944. History remembers it as ‘D-day.’ As a part of Operation Overlord, the United States and its allies landed on the beach of Normandy, France. It was the beginning of the end of the war. Yet the war in Europe didn’t end until more than a year later on May 7th, 1945, also known as ‘VE-day.’ Despite the fact that the victory at Normandy effectively broke the back of the Axis powers, the war didn’t officially end until months later. In fact, more people died in between those dates than any other period of the war. It was dark and difficult, but the end had begun. It was inaugurated June 6th, 1944, but the end wasn’t consummated until May 7th, 1945. That’s the difference between D-day and VE-day. That’s not a perfect parallel, but when the kingdom of God arrived in the person of Jesus, it came near. But, it will not be fully realized until Jesus returns at the end of time. The church is left to live between the times.”

Until the day of Christ’s return, those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ and have stopped trusting in their own works for acceptance before God live with the confident hope that we are accepted before God because of Jesus’ righteousness. Even though we may still fail to obey and fall into sin, we receive God’s forgiveness granted to us through Christ’s obedience to God’s Word.

As we await the return of Christ, the Father is placing every enemy under Jesus’ feet (Eph. 1:22). After Jesus has defeated all His enemies, including death, He will deliver the kingdom to the Father, and we will enter into God’s final rest, where we will finally be free from sin and disease and death (1 Cor. 15:24-28).

Voices from the Church

“This healing ministry lay at the heart of Christ’s mission, for it demonstrated that he had come to redeem every last corner of his creation. Not only souls, but bodies too have been wracked by sin, so bodies, not only souls, must be restored. When Christ ‘took up our infirmities and carried our diseases,’ he offered a sneak preview of the full and final redemption he would bring to our world.”

—Michael Wittmer
How does a future hope of being in God's presence where there is no sin, suffering, sorrow, and death help you face sin, suffering, sorrow, and death now?

How does a future hope of no sickness or suffering influence our mission as Christ's representatives in the world?

Conclusion

Jesus fulfilled the righteousness God requires of humanity by identifying with God's previous sinful human representatives (Adam and Israel) and reenacting their lives at the very points they failed. Christ's obedience began to reverse the effects of sin unleashed upon God's people and the created world. Jesus was uniquely qualified to fulfill God's mission because He was the Lord's anointed, the Messiah-Christ.

As those who are accepted by God through Christ, we too have been empowered by the Holy Spirit for mission and ministry. The Bible declares that we are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession” (1 Pet. 2:9). In other words, though in and of ourselves we are unacceptable to God, in Christ we are not only acceptable to God but God affirms us, calling us His sons and daughters and sending us out to accomplish His mission—to “proclaim the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Now Jesus is working through us, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to continue telling the world that He alone is God and the only pathway to the Father. As we proclaim this good news of God's kingdom, we will see people liberated from bondage to sin.

If you believe that you are accepted by God through Christ and that God has affirmed you as His child because of Christ and has set you apart to accomplish His mission in the power of the Holy Spirit, then are you being obedient as God's child in fulfilling God's mission?

What are some ways you can join God's mission to proclaim freedom to those who are under sin's curse?

Prayer of Response

"Teach us how to fight by faith against the power of sin, in the confidence that Christ has purchased our forgiveness and secured the triumph of all who trust in him. Turn every evil design of the devil into sanctifying schemes of love. Deliver us from his deceptions. Keep the beauty of Christ clear in the eyes of our heart. Make us instruments of Satan's defeat until you come and slay him by the breath of your mouth. Make us valiant in delivering others by the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, your great Gospel. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."" —John Piper

References

**Devotional Material**

Encourage your group to read the three devotional readings included in the personal study guide.

- “The Dance”—Chapter 1 from *King’s Cross* by Timothy Keller
- “Wrestling with Demons: Why Temptation Matters”—Chapter 1 from *Tempted and Tried* by Russell D. Moore
- “Why Repentance? For What Sins?”—Chapter 2 from *Surprised by Jesus* by Tim Stafford
- “Demon Possession in the First Century”—Article by Bob Dean on *Biblical Illustrator Plus* (CD-ROM); order at [www.lifeway.com/biblicalillustrator](http://www.lifeway.com/biblicalillustrator)

**Study Material**

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**Sermon Podcast**

Jeff Iorg: “Handling Temptations”—
Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Chapel

Find a link to this sermon at [gospelproject.com/additionalresources](http://gospelproject.com/additionalresources)

**Tip of the Week**

*Adapt the Lesson*

*The Gospel Project* is designed to give you, as the leader, much more content than you could possibly cover in a typical group meeting. Don’t feel pressured to include all the quotes, commentary, or discussion questions in your teaching plan. Instead, based on the particular needs of your group, modify the lesson. Seek prayerfully the leading of the Holy Spirit as you decide which points to emphasize and which questions to ask. Also keep in mind that much of the leader content is present in the personal study guide. You can always encourage your group to read at home any sections you are unable to cover as thoroughly as you would like.