Doing Life Together

1. From the above passages we learn that God does not tempt us, why is this important in our walk with Christ Jesus?

> Leader: Having a God that tempts us would mean that we could not truly trust him. Having a God that can relate and only provides what is good for us gives us reassurance that all things will work for our good as in Romans 8:28. " And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

2. So now when trials come and temptation happens, where should we turn? Talk about some strategies that could help us when we face trials and temptation tries to take control.

> Leader: We should turn to Jesus our mediator with comfort knowing that he understands, asking for help to keep our focus on God the Father and not on our desires that may turn to sinful actions. We could memorize passages, songs, join home groups, make sure you have a fellow Christian that you can talk to that will help keep you on track.

Prayer Requests

- ➲
- ➲
- ➲
- ➲
- ➲

Norm & Michelle Smith – EFCCM – Hungary

Pray for:

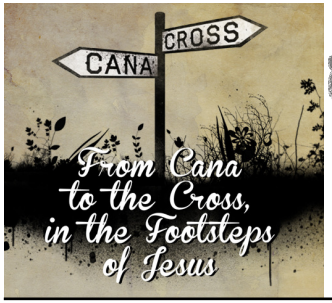
- Norm in his administration work
- Norm & Michelle in their many ministry opportunities in the community and especially for Michelle as she interacts in the Deaf Community
- Norm as he continues to lower his meds and works to keep healthy through exercise and diet
- Michelle's family efforts to raise funds for nephew Tristan's cancer treatment.

Service Opportunities

Tuesday morning Ladies Bible Study – Nursery volunteers
If you can help out, contact Lyn or the church office – 938-3311

Graeme Rattray's Worship CD release
Graeme Rattray CD release of the worship songs we've come to enjoy. Saturday, Jan 21st @ 7pm here at the church. Hear how 'Love Mercy, Do Justice' will help in the ministry to the victims of the sex trade in Thailand.

SABC Caretaker – Full Time Job opportunity
SABC is looking for someone to head up the caretaker duties. Send resume to Jon Gartly at SABC, Box 99, Lomond, AB, T0L1G0



OKOTOKS
evangelical free church
helping people reach their potential in Christ

January 8, 2012 **Sermon Notes**

Matthew 4:1-11

Temptation attacks at our core

The temptation attacked the core of Jesus' nature

1. Would he Reject his Humanity?

2. Would he Question his Divinity?

3. Would he Derail his Mission?

All temptation addresses one key issue:
Will we Serve God or Ourselves?

What do I need to do with what I have heard today?

Home Bible Fellowship Study Questions

Thinking Things Through

1. When you think of Jesus' temptation (or Jesus being tempted by the same things you face), how does the fact that he is not just fully human but also fully God influence you? Do you think it was easier for him to face temptation than for you? Do you think it was easier for him than for Adam and Eve before sin was part of our lives? Why or why not?

> Leader: People will struggle with this. You may struggle to understand this. But if people say or think, 'yes, but he was God' (an excuse for why it was easier for him), then they miss the point of the first temptation. Jesus, though God, chose to live fully human. Php 2:7 says he 'made himself nothing' (emptied himself) and I know there is debate about what that meant. But we must acknowledge that he was in submission and led by the Spirit just as we are (Mat 4:1; Luke 4:1). He was not 'less than God' but he did not let his divine nature interfere with the experience of living as a human being. That's what the first temptation targeted – to override his humanity.

2. How have you experienced the attack of temptation at the core of your new nature as a child of God? What do you doubt most often – you are his child? His love? His forgiveness? His existence? Or something else?

Digging Deeper

Read James 1:12-18

1. In the beginning of the book of James trials are to be consider joy when encountered. What makes it worth our while to persevere under trails or temptations?

> Leader: The Lord promises the crown of life.

2. In verse 13 and 14, the word tempted is used four times along with the word tempt. What is the meaning of this word and what part of speech is it? Think about some synonyms that could be used instead of the word tempted.

> Leader: Definition from Merriam-Websters: 1. To entice to do wrong by promise of pleasure or gain; 2a. (obsolete) to make trial of: test, 2b. to try presumptuously: Provoke, 2c. to risk the danger of; 3a. to induce to do something, 3b. to cause to be strongly inclined. (Verb). Synonyms: bait, entice, ensnare, persuaded, trap, seduce.

3. Keep in mind that tempted is a verb, a doing word. Re-read verse 13 and 14 using one of the synonyms, does this make a difference to the meaning compared to the first time you read it?

> Leader: Answers may very. The meaning may have changed in that you are not thinking of the first tempted to refer to being tested but rather to the action of being persuaded.

4. What is the source of temptation in verse 14?

> Leader: It comes from our own lust, desires, or our sinful nature.

5. Where does good come from and why does James end this section on temptation and being deceived with this declaration? See verses 17-18.

> Leader: Good comes from above, from the Father of heavenly lights. He is our source of strength to meet the challenges of temptation and our new birth is what makes this possible.

Read Hebrews 4:15

6. Jesus was tempted but did not sin. What is the difference between our failed reactions to temptations and those of Jesus (or our times of success against temptation), remember Sunday's passage?

> Leader: Our sinful nature has lured us to take matters into our own hands and Jesus was not burdened by this aspect of our nature. He kept his focus on the end goal which required human submission to the Father's leadership. He never tried to be something that was not his place to be while he walked this earth. His 'glory' would come later. Unfortunately, we often let our guard down for a moment and allow our old sinful nature take control (we try to take over for God).