

Sermon Discussion Questions  
Temptations in the Holiday Wilderness by Destin Garner  
Sunday, November 30, 2025  
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Scripture Passages: Luke 4:1-13, Romans 8:5-8, Galatians 5:24,  
1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 2:1-3, 1 John 2:15-16

Read the scriptures above aloud prior to beginning the discussion below.

Icebreaker: What is one aspect of the Advent season that you genuinely love (the "light" – i.e. singing, baking, enjoying family traditions, volunteering, etc. and what is one common "shadow side" (i.e., expectations, exhaustion, expenses, commercialism) that you personally find challenging?

1. What was one takeaway you can learn from these scriptures or this sermon? What do we learn about the character of God from these passages?
2. Destin described the holiday wilderness as a "place of SEPARATION" that creates "holy disorientation," allowing God to get our attention. How can we intentionally allow the chaotic, "disorienting" nature of this season to be used by God to get our attention, rather than just letting it lead to stress and exhaustion?
3. Do you agree, this season is a "place of CONFRONTATION," where "what's really inside a person comes out when they get squeezed?" In your experience, what specific stressful holiday situations tend to "squeeze" you the most, and what response or attitude does this stress tend to reveal in your own heart? (i.e. impatience in traffic, anxiety over spending, disappointment if expectations aren't met).
3. Define temptation and discuss the three sources of temptation, according to 1 John 2:16. What is one temptation that you struggle with, and what does that look like?
4. What is one practical, specific choice you can make this week to "crucify the flesh" by denying yourself an immediate, satisfying impulse (like overspending, overeating, or excessive relaxing) and instead choosing to "feast on the Bread of Life"? (Galatians 5:24)
5. How does the relentless visual marketing and commercialism of the holiday season tempt you to prioritize self-acquisition and self-agenda over service to God and others? (i.e. The desire to *have* what you see).
6. How does the pressure to present a "picture-perfect" life (through social media, family photos, or flawless feasts and gatherings) tempt you to put on a performance rather than simply relying on and "boasting in Christ"?
7. What are some practical ways as a small group we can encourage one another to stay sober and alert, fix our eyes on Christ and "stay on mission for Him" and not succumb to the temptations of "more for us" in the holiday wilderness? (1 Peter 5:8)

**For further application and next steps**

- Memorize 1 John 2:15-17 this week
- In this sermon, we learned about three negative outcomes when we give in to sin (Slough It Off, Shame, or Self-Righteousness) with God's desired outcome (Sit In and Soak Up the Substitutionary work of Your Savior). When you fall into sin, what is your most common, immediate go-to response (Slough It Off, Shame, or Self-Righteousness)? Journal or discuss with a group member.