

MBC C3 LEADERS QUESTIONS
WEEK 2 - 10/17/21

Listen to, Learn about, and Love on one another

- Share a spiritual insight from God you've experienced this past week during your daily devotion, listening to a sermon or praise music, talking with a friend, watching a movie, etc.
- In 5 minutes or less, briefly tell your group about your week and how God gave you an opportunity to display love for another person?

"22 You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. 23 But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning." (Romans 14:22-23, NLT)

V 22–23: DO NOT DO ANYTHING DOUBTFUL It is good to have a clear conscience ourselves before God, but if what we are about to do is something about which we have any doubt, either for ourselves or about making another stumble, we would be better not to do it. 'If in doubt, don't!' is a good guide for conduct in non-essential matters and in matters that can cause others to stumble (The Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 10/14/21, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+14&version=NLT>)

Getting Started with a Warm-Up:

- Reflecting on Pastor Randy's sermon about Satan and demons this past Sunday 10/17/21: 1) Do you view demons and demonic influences as being responsible for every bad circumstance that happens or do you attribute it to just bad luck?; and 2) Scripture tells us to stay alert because our adversary is on the prowl (1 Peter 5:8).

A) How do you know when it is a spiritual attack versus normal, everyday thoughts or trials?

(God gives us good desires like the desire for food to sustain life. However when our desires are excessive like the desire to over indulge in eating [i.e. overeating, gluttony]. Satan always attempts

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to take God's good gifts and twist them into something other than what they were intended for [i.e. food, sex]. Satan never forces us to sin, rather he entices and tempts us--we always have a choice. Read James 1:14-15)

B) When was the last time you were aware of demonic activity/affliction in your life?

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8, NLT)

5:8 adversary the devil. The Greek word translated "adversary" was in common use for an opponent in a lawsuit, and "devil" (Greek diabolos) is the usual translation of the Hebrew Satan, which means "slanderer" or "accuser" and also serves as a proper name for the devil (Job 1:6; Zech. 3:1, 2; cf. Rev. 12:9, 10). The phrase reveals the ultimate source behind all persecution.

lion. The imagery is perhaps borrowed from the Book of Psalms where the psalmist's enemies and the wicked are compared to lions (Ps. 7:2; 10:9, 10). The metaphor conveys the strength and destructiveness of the devil and accentuates the need for alertness on the part of believers.

(ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 10/15/21,
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+peter+5&version=NLT>)

"14 Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. 15 These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death." (James 1:14-15, NLT)

V 12–15: TEMPTATION TRUTH Blessing comes to those who endure temptation. God does not tempt anyone. Our evil desires cause us to be tempted and give birth to sin. Sin produces death. (Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 10/15/21,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1&version=NLT>)

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Getting Down to Business:

The following questions are following this format: Scripture/Observation, Application, and Prayer (SOAP).

1) Scripture/Observation:

- Read 2 Corinthians 11:3. In what ways are you learning to resist the devil?

“3 But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent.” (2 Corinthians 11:3, NLT)

V 1–3: **CONCERNED** Paul does not want Satan to entice away or spoil the bride of Christ, His church. He shows his belief in the book of Genesis, when illustrating Eve's temptation, by citing it as historical fact. (Bible Panorama, accessed 10/15/21, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+11&version=NLT>)

- Read James 4:7. How does humility help us resist the devil?

“So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7, NLT)

4:7 **Submit.** This requires a willing act of accepting the authority of God. We are under His authority whether we submit to it or not. Here “submit” means “to obey.”

Resist the devil, and he will flee. Satan is not equal in power or authority to God. Though Satan is powerful, he is not invincible. He flees from saints wearing the armor of God who resist him. (ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 10/15/21, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=james+4&version=NLT>)

- Read 2 Corinthians 4:4. Give examples of how Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers. (Hint: Pride, self-sufficiency, bad experience with church)

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“Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:4, NLT)

4:4 the god of this world. Satan (cf. 1 John 5:19) strongly influences this fallen, evil world that continues until the time Christ returns and brings in fully the age to come (cf. Gal. 1:4).

has blinded. The result is that unbelievers cannot appreciate or fully understand the claims of the gospel, unless God through the gospel enlightens them (4:6; John 3:3). (ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 10/15/21,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+corinthians+4&version=NLT>)

2) Application: Read Matthew 4:1-11 “Temptation of Jesus”. What scripture do you use to fight the enemies attacks? Do you believe in fasting when battling Satan’s temptations?

V 1–11: DEVIL RESISTED Jesus fasts in the wilderness, having been led there by the Spirit. Despite Satan’s best efforts to urge Jesus to indulge His physical appetite, to work an unnecessary miracle, and to claim His kingdom too soon, Jesus resists these temptations and is ministered to by angels. He uses the Bible to resist Satan’s temptations in this combat.

(Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 10/15/21,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+4&version=NLT>)

3) Prayer: “Lord, give us awareness and discernment to recognize the attacks of our enemy. Help us to rely on Your authority and not on our own strength as we do battle with Satan and his evil forces. Amen.”