

C3 LEADERS' QUESTIONS

F2022-WEEK 1

9/4/22

Getting Started with a Warm-Up:

- How would you describe what a desire is? And how could you determine if a desire is good or bad?

- What activities cause desires in you, which draw you away from serving God?

Getting Down to Business:

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

1) Scripture/Observation:

- A. Read Ps. 42:1-2. What kind of desire does the psalmist describe? (hint: Spiritual desire for God.) And why do you think he describes this desire this way? (A longing to have a relationship with God. The analogy using a deer is a familiar picture to the reader.)

“As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. 2 I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him?” (Ps. 42:1-2 NLT)

42:1 As a deer pants for flowing streams. A powerful description of deep desire for God's presence.

42:2 appear before God. Due to Jesus' redemptive work on the cross, the Christian has ready access to the Lord in prayer. The psalmist suffers because he is separated from the temple, the place God specifically set apart for worship during the period between David and Jesus. The psalmist desires to return to the temple and the assurance of God's life-giving presence.

(ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 9/1/22,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ps+42&version=NLT>)

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B. Read Mt.5:27-28. Why is the thought, not just the act of lust, a sin?

“27 “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart..” (Mt.5:27-28 NLT)

V 27–30: DRASTIC In our personal fight against sin, drastic action is called for, emphasized here through striking illustrations. This involves self-denial, and recognising that, in the eyes of God, hatred and anger in the heart count as murder, and lust counts as adultery.

(Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 9/1/22,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matt.+5%3A27-28&version=NLT>)

C. Read Jas. 1:14-15. Describe how temptation may lead to sin. (Hint: desires -> thoughts/motives -> sinful action)

“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”. (Jas. 1:14-15 NLT)

The Greek word translated “trial” also means “temptation.” Many interpreters feel that James suddenly changes the meaning of the word to that of tempting in vv.13-14. (He now uses the verb form.) OT theology clearly affirms that God subjects people to tests to confirm their faith. (Recall God’s directive to Abraham to make Isaac a human sacrifice, Ge 22). So it would be incorrect to say that “God himself tests nobody.” It is altogether proper, however, to retain the meaning of testing and to render the passage as follows: “When a person is testing himself, he must not say, ‘I am being tested by God,’ for God is not liable to testing with reference to evil, and he himself does not cause testing in anyone. But each man, in testing himself, allows himself to be hooked and dragged away by his own deep desires.” An individual may intentionally create a situation in

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order to invoke special help from God or to demonstrate spiritual superiority. But there is no need for a person to engage in self-testing. This is born of unwholesome desire. Its true nature will become evident in consequent sin (1:15). James understandably hastens to warn such persons: "Don't be deceived, my dear brothers!" (v.16). V.16 fittingly concludes the paragraph.

(Asbury Bible Commentary, accessed 9/1/22,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Jas.+1%3A14-15&version=NLT>)

- D. Read 1 Jn. 1:9. Does feeling remorseful for your sin count as confession? (Hint: No. Explain why?)

"But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness". (1 Jn. 1:9 NLT)

1:9 If we confess our sins. God's forgiveness is given as soon as we admit our need of it, not on the basis of any acts we have done to earn it, but solely because of His grace. The free gift of forgiveness carries with it purification from unrighteousness. God accepts us as righteous because He imputes to us the righteousness of Christ. That is, the very righteousness of Christ our sin-bearer is reckoned to our account. (ESV Reformation Study Bible, accessed 9/1/22, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Jn.+1%3A9+&version=NLT>)

2) Application:

Read Ps. 32:1-2. What steps can we take to develop a deeper relationship with God? (Hint: Review sermon notes. Also think of spiritual activities to help in your relationship with God.)

1 Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! 2 Yes, what joy for those whose record the Lord has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! (Ps. 32:1-2 NLT)

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V 1–2: SINS COVERED There is immense blessedness in having transgression forgiven, sins covered, and no iniquity imputed to the sinner. This removes deceit and guile from the spirit of the forgiven person.

(Bible Panorama commentary, accessed 9/2/22,

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=ps+32&version=NLT>)

3) Prayer: As you pray, thank the Lord for the good desires He has placed within you. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to keep your desires under control and not allow them to become sinful lusts.