

Series: Hallowed be your name

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

Small group questions

Leaders: choose some, but not all of the following questions. Email me with any questions. Mark.

1. Was there anything new for you from the message? Any questions?

Save us from the time of trial or lead us not into temptation?

2. What did Mark say is the challenge about translating this line?
3. Compare James 1:2 and James 1:13 where the same word in Greek is first translated 'trial', then 'temptation'. How are we to determine which English word should be used?
4. Our prayer book compilers have opted for one translation, while most English versions of the Bible have opted for another. Where should we land on this? (See the text of the sermon for reasons Mark gives for preferring the traditional translation.)

Why pray this prayer if we're told God does not lead us into temptation?

5. Let's turn this heading into a question for your discussion: Why pray this prayer if we're told God does not lead us into temptation? Refer to Mark's explanation in the text of the sermon.
6. How might the evil one use a God-given trial as a means of temptation?

How does temptation work?

7. Read James 1:14-15. The evil one will play on our own evil desires and entice us to sin. But the choice to sin is our own. Discuss.

How might God answer this prayer?

By granting us wisdom into the evil one's tactics and opening our eyes so we can see him coming! By setting the fence at the cliff face 20 metres back from the edge – so to speak.

8. If Mark wants to avoid eating Cadbury chocolate, what practical steps might he take? How might this illustration help us in other areas of our life which are way more seriously related to sin?
9. Mark warned: Don't pray 'lead us not into temptation' if you then act in the completely opposite direction and put yourself in temptation's way!
10. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12-13. Discuss how this verse is both a challenge and encouragement.
11. Discuss Mark's closing remarks: Lead us not into temptation: The Lord will...help you see temptation coming...keep you from getting close...help you resist...not allow you to be tempted beyond what you can bare...and give you a way out! Lead us not into temptation... but deliver us from evil... out of the evil one's clutches... away from his power, out of harm's way...So that we might live godly and obedient lives. May this prayer be on our lips and in our hearts each and every day. Amen.

What have you learnt from this sermon and this whole series, which will impact your life? Share with each other.