

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS DOESN'T STAY IN VEGAS

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TABLETALK STARTERS (For family devotions and Life Group discussions)

Introduction:

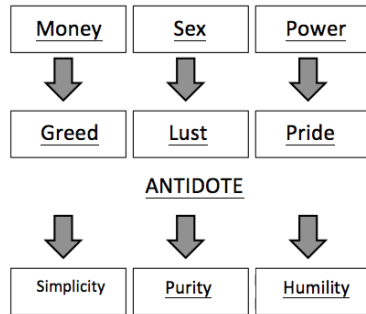
1. The **necessity** of temptation (James 1:2-3)
2. The **negativity** of temptation (Luke 4:13)

I. THE ANATOMY OF TEMPTATION (James 1:13-15)

A. Stages

1. Stage 1: **Desire** (v. 14)
2. Stage 2: **Deed** (v. 15a)
3. Stage 3: **Destruction** (v. 15b)

B. Sources*



II. THE ANTIDOTE OF TEMPTATION

- A. **Discipline** and practice godly habits (Ephesians 6:17-19; Mark 14:38)
- B. **Deploy** the parachute early (1 Thessalonians 5:22)
- C. **Determine** to live a life of simplicity, purity and humility (1 Timothy 6:11-12)
- D. **Direct** the elephant (Matthew 18:8-9)
- E. **Discern** God's escape plan (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Conclusion: Hebrews 4:15

*Pastor Alan Dionson highly recommends the book by Richard Foster on this subject, "Money, Sex and Power" (San Francisco: Harper Books, 1985).

1. Read James 1:2-3 and Luke 4:13. Comparing the two passages, why is temptation necessary and why is it also dangerous?

2. Read James 1:13-15. Identify the three stages of temptation. Why is it important to weigh any attraction to temptation with the end in mind?

3. Make a personal evaluation from lowest to highest the three sources of temptation, called by Richard Foster, The Dark Triad. After an honest assessment, share to the group your struggles, victories and encouragement of how you overcame these temptations.

<i>Greed</i>	-10	-7.5	-5	-2.5	0	2.5	5	7.5	10	<i>Simplicity</i>
Money										
<i>Lust</i>	-10	-7.5	-5	-2.5	0	2.5	5	7.5	10	<i>Purity</i>
Sex										
<i>Pride</i>	-10	-7.5	-5	-2.5	0	2.5	5	7.5	10	<i>Humility</i>
Power										

4. How do you apply a life simplicity overcoming greed? How do you keep yourself pure from the temptation of lust? How can you live in humility in a world where there is so much power and control?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What are the specific areas in your life that you are facing the greatest temptation? From the sermon and passage you just read, in what ways God is showing you the 'escape plan'?
6. Read Hebrews 4:15 and close the Life Group meeting by praying for one another and declaring victory over temptations.

PRAY