

All Age Worship Service

(AAW006)

**The Lord's Prayer 6:
“Lead us not into
temptation, but
deliver us from evil.”**

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THE LORD'S PRAYER 6:

“LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL”

Service Aim:

To teach what it means to pray: “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil”

Biblical Reference(s):

Matthew 4:1-11, 6:9-13, James 1:13, John 10:10, 1Corinthians 10:13, Ephesians 6:11-17

Outline of Service:

Welcome:	Introduce the theme
Opening Prayer:	
Opening songs:	<u>A couple of songs to draw people into worship</u> (See Appendix 1)
Drama:	“The chocolate cake”
Link:	We all face TEMPTATION
Reading 1:	Matthew 4:1-11
Talk 1:	God does not lead us into temptation (James 1:13) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The devil is the one who tempts us. • We need to ask God to protect us and keep us on His safe path when the devil comes and tempts us to walk on his dangerous path.
Song:	<u>Songs about the power of God</u> (See Appendix 1)
Link:	How does Temptation work?
Drama:	“The Telephone calls”
Talk 2:	Temptation often follows a similar pattern <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing illustration
Confession:	Where we have “given in” to temptation and fallen.
Song:	<u>Songs about the Lord's forgiveness and restoration</u> (See Appendix 1)
Link:	How do we resist Temptation?
Puppets:	“That five pound note is calling out to me”
Talk 3:	Ways to resist temptation
Prayer:	Pray on the armour of God
Summary:	Ask God to protect us and keep us on His safe path when tempted, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remembering that He alone truly satisfies us.
Final song:	<u>A song to send people out on</u> (See Appendix 1)
Blessing:	
Handout:	Armour of God prayer

Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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Welcome:

Welcome everyone to the service and explain to people that you will be looking at the line of "The Lord's Prayer" that says "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."

Opening Prayer:

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- a prayer from a book like "New Patterns for Worship"¹ that the congregation can say together,
- or the following prayer that the congregation can say together:

**Lord we are here to worship you.
Would you meet with us through your Spirit,
Teach us through your Word,
Show us where we need to change,
And give us all we need to serve you in the world.
For the glory of your name. Amen.**

Opening Songs:

A couple of songs to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

Drama:

The opening drama called "The Chocolate cake" (which can found in Appendix 2) sets up the theme of the service. Its purpose is to open up the fact that we all face temptation. Ideally both actors will have a radio-microphone as Person 1 will be speaking "off-stage" for some of their lines as they "look for the sprinkles." The cake needs to be quite a large one that is obviously meant for sharing and is really visible to the congregation. The person who helps themselves to the cake needs to make a right mess of the cake when they take a bit out of the middle so that it really is spoilt!

Link:

We all face temptations every day to do wrong things,

- to sin.

Some of us might be tempted to do something that we have been told by our parents not to do.

- Others of us may be tempted to break the law and speed in our cars.

Some of us may be tempted to buy loads of things we don't need,

- whilst others of us may be tempted to flirt with co-workers when we are married.

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Some of us may be tempted to steal,

- whilst others of us may be tempted to lie, judge others, lose our temper, be selfish, drink too much and so on.

Temptation itself is not a sin, and we can all be tempted,

- however old or young we are.
- Even Jesus was tempted.
- Listen to this.

Reading 1:

The reading is Matthew 4:1-11 and can be read by a child, young person or adult in a modern version of the Bible.

Talk 1:

We have reached the part of the Lord's Prayer where Jesus teaches us to pray: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,"

- so what does that mean?

The first thing to say is that God does not lead us into temptation.

- James 1:13 says, "*When tempted, no-one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone*"
- So if God doesn't tempt us, who does?

Our reading from Matthew tells us that the devil, who is also known as Satan is the one who tempted Jesus when he was in the wilderness for 40 days and nights.

The devil is the one who also tempts us.

- He is the enemy of God and he is also our enemy if we are following Jesus.

Although the devil is powerful and cunning,

- we need to remember that he is only a created being,
- and is not anywhere near as powerful and mighty as our Father God

However, although the devil is much smaller than God, he has a loud voice.....

- With that voice he tries to stop us from walking on God's good and safe path,
- and get us to walk on his evil and dangerous path.

Jesus said in John 10:10 – "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*"

- Temptation is one of the ways the devil uses to try and get us to leave God's path for his path.

However although temptation can sometimes be hard to deal with,

- if we don't give in to it, we will grow stronger in our Christian character.

Jesus didn't give in to the temptations he had thrown at him in the desert,

- and he can help us if we cry out to Him for help.

So when we pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,"

- we are asking God to protect us and keep us on His safe path when the devil comes and tempts us.

Songs:

Songs about the power of God as per Appendix 1

Link:

So how does temptation work?

- Watch this.....

Drama:

The drama is called “The Telephone calls” and can be found in Appendix 3. The purpose of this drama is to show some of the ways that the devil speaks into our minds, to try and tempt us to sin. The devil is an “offstage” voice and is portrayed as someone at the end of a telephone.

Talk 2:

This talk would work well with good illustrations on power-point or using the visual aids of a fishing rod with hook and a big juicy maggot!

So how does temptation work in practice?

- It works a bit like fishing!

Think for a moment about a fisherman who wants to catch a fish.

- In order to attract the fish onto the end of his fishing hook he has to hide the hook with tasty bait;
- something like a nice fat juicy maggot!

A good fisherman will know exactly what kind of bait each fish likes,

- so that he can successfully catch it.

The devil is like the fisherman and we are like the fish.

- The bait the devil uses is something that will tempt us to sin,
- and it will be different for each one of us as we said earlier.

The bait might look beautiful....

- It might look really good to us,
- but underneath that bait is a dangerous hook that we don't see.

Temptation begins with the devil dangling some bait in front of us.

- For Jesus, as we heard in our reading earlier, one of the baits the devil dangled in front of him was to use his power to turn stones into bread,
- when he was starving hungry.

In our drama, the bait for the character “Anyone” was watching something inappropriate on television when they were tired,

- or gossiping about a work colleague.

Once the devil has ensured that we have seen the bait,

- he then wants us to take it,
- in other words to give in to the temptation.

He encourages us to give in to the temptation by putting thoughts into our mind.

- Thoughts like, “If you are the Son of God.....”

“There’s nothing wrong with

- “Everyone does it, so why don’t you?”
- “You deserve it.....”

These thoughts are lies,

- because the devil is a liar and a deceiver.

If we do nothing to get rid of those thoughts,

- then the desire to give in to the temptation and do the wrong thing will grow in our hearts.

We saw that happen in the drama,

- when the character “Anyone” got to the point where she nearly rang her friend to share some gossip.

If we allow the desire to grow in our heart to do the wrong thing,

- eventually we will act on the thoughts in our mind and sin.

Unfortunately if we repeatedly give in to the temptation to a certain sin,

- we can end up hooked on it,
- and there is nothing that we can do to set ourselves free.

The good news of the Gospel is that when we fall for temptation,

- and when we get hooked,
- Jesus is not only willing to come and set us free,
- but he also doesn’t condemn us.

Some of us here this morning will have given in to temptation this week.

- You may be one of those people and are sitting here now feeling guilty for something that you have done, or not done.
- Let’s come to Jesus and ask Him to set us free so that we can walk closely with him again.

Confession:

It might be helpful to give people some silence to allow the Holy Spirit to show them where they have given in to temptation. Follow this with a prayer of Confession. You could use:

- a prayer from a book like “New Patterns for Worship”² that the congregation can say together,
- or the following prayer that the congregation can say together:

Lord we confess that we have given in to temptation this week.

**We have believed the lies that the devil has put into our minds,
and we have acted on those lies and sinned against you.**

Please forgive us our sins,

and set us free from the hooks we now find ourselves caught on.

Strengthen us to say “no” to temptation and “yes” to your holy ways.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

- Follow this with a prayer of Absolution.

² Church House Publishing – ISBN 0715120603
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Songs:

Songs about the Lord's forgiveness and restoration as per Appendix 1

Link:

We have heard that we are all tempted to sin,

- and how temptation works in practice.

We are going to spend a few minutes now thinking about how we can say "no" to temptation when it comes to us.

- James has been struggling with temptation and his Grandad has some words of wisdom for him.

Puppet Script:

If you have time, you could use the puppet script, "That five pound note is calling out to me" (see Appendix 4). This script works with a boy puppet "James"³ and an older man puppet "Grandad." The aim of the puppet script is to give some teaching on how to deal with temptation. The service would still work without this puppet script.

Talk 3:

This talk would work well with good illustrations on power-point.

So what do we do when the devil dangles his tempting baits in front of us?

- Tempting baits of tasty looking chocolate cakes we've been told not to touch,
- Five pound notes lying around,
- Juicy gossip, or something else.....

What do we do when having seen those tempting things the thoughts in our minds tell us that we should reach out and take the bait?

- Let me give you seven ways to defeat temptation.

1) Remember that **Father God wants to give us something much better.** (*Picture of outstretched arms*)

- Father God wants to satisfy our deepest needs and He does that by giving us relationship with Himself.
- All these other tempting things that the devil parades in front of us will never truly satisfy, and will leave us feeling guilty and ashamed if we take them.
- Father God alone can truly fill our deepest longings.

2) Realise that **you are weak.** (*Show picture of a banana skin*)

- Why do you think I have shown a picture of a banana skin? (*Receive answers*)
- That's right...we can slip on a banana skin easily.
- We can all easily forget that Father God has better for us and so we give in temptation.

We will especially give in when we are hungry, angry, lonely, or tired (HALT!)

- Jesus was tempted when he was hungry and alone.
- Be careful not to look at other people and say "I would never do that," because you might, given the wrong circumstances.

³ You can purchase both a boy and a Grandad puppet from www.onewayuk.com
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Be careful not to put yourself into tempting situations because you might give in and do wrong.

- Be aware of what your own weaknesses are.

3) **Pray and ask for help** (*Show picture of person kneeling and praying*)

- Having realised that we are weak, we can ask God to help us when we are tempted.
- Each day, ask the Lord for His protection and his help to stay on His safe path.

4) **Read your Bible** regularly (*Show picture of the Bible*)

- Spiritually, your mind is the place where the battle with temptation is won or lost.
- So fill your mind with Bible verses of Father God's goodness....and you will be amazed how the Holy Spirit will bring those verses to mind when you need them.
- Jesus dealt with the temptations that the devil threw at him in the desert by quoting Bible verses that spoke God's truth.

5) **Refocus on something else** (*Show picture of telescope*)

- When temptation comes refocus your attention, think about something else.
- Don't allow evil thoughts to stay in your mind.
- Turn your eyes back to the Lord and His goodness.

6) **Share with other Christians** (*Show picture of other people*)

- God's plan for our growth and freedom includes other Christians.
- Join a small group and be honest about your struggles
- Let others pray for you.

7) **Look for the escape route** (*Sign that says, "Escape Route"*)

- God has made us a promise that He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear,
- and he will also provide a way of escape for us to take.
- So when you are tempted, look for God's escape route!

Seven ways then that we can defeat temptation:

- Remember that Father God wants to give us something much better.
- Realise that you are weak,
- Pray and ask for help,
- Read your Bible regularly,
- Refocus on something else,
- Share with other Christians and
- Look for the escape route.

If we do those things, we will not be caught on the devil's hook,

- and we will stay on God's safe path.

Prayer:

Our prayers this morning will include two parts. We will begin by prayerfully singing the song, "No-one but you Lord"⁴ and then praying on our spiritual armour.

⁴ This song was written by Andy Park © 1988 Mercy/Vineyard and can be found in Songs of Fellowship Book 1.
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Prayerfully sing “No-one but you Lord.” This song reinforces the main way of defeating temptation ie by recognising that only God can truly satisfy us and meet our deepest desires. After the song say something like:

Ephesians 6:11 says, “*Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes,*”

- so let’s pray, saying together:

Father God

I put on the belt of truth around my waist.

Help me listen to and act upon your truth alone.

I put on the breastplate of righteousness.

Thank you that because of the cross I can be righteous in your sight.

I put on the shoes of the gospel of peace.

Lord help me walk with you today & leave footprints of peace wherever I go.

**I stand behind the shield of faith,
trusting in you to protect me;**

**I place the helmet of salvation on my head.
Jesus you are my salvation.**

I take up the sword of the Spirit.

Holy Spirit, help me hear your voice bringing a Scripture or instruction at my moment of need. Amen

Pray for the Lord to protect the congregation from all deception and that they will recognise and resist the devil’s “baits.” End the time of prayer with the Lords’ Prayer.

Summary:

You may like to summarize the service by saying something like:

As Jesus taught us to pray in the Lord’s prayer:

- “*Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil*”
- Let us ask God to protect us and keep us on His safe path when the devil comes and tempts us to walk on his dangerous path,
- remembering that Father God alone can truly satisfy our deepest desires.

Final song:

Final song as per Appendix 1

Blessing:

Pray a simple prayer to end the service something like:

Jesus says, “*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life*”....(John 8:12)

So go from here following Jesus, the light of the world, who will lead you on the safe path through life until you reach heaven,

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

[Notices: If your church gives out verbal notices my suggestion is that you do that just before the final song. That way the flow of worship is unbroken]

Handout:

You might like to give out a handout with how to pray the Armour of God prayer. You can find this in Appendix 5.

Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) A couple of songs to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- At the name of Jesus (Caroline M Noel)
- He is the Lord and He reigns on high (Kevin Prosch © 1991 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing)
- Immortal invisible God only wise (Walter C Smith)
- Jesus Christ is the Lord of all (Steve Israel & Gerrit Gustafson © 1988 Integrity's Hosanna ! Music)
- Jesus is the name we honour (Phil Lawson Johnston © 1991 Thankyou Music)
- Lord I lift your name on high (Rick Founds © 1989 Maranatha! Praise Inc.)
- My hope is build (Cornerstone) (Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, William Batchelder Bradbury © 2011 Hillsong Music Publishing)

ii) Songs about the power of God. Ideas include:

- Above all powers (Lenny LeBlanc & Paul Baloche © 1999 Lensongs Publishing/Integrity;s Hosanna! Music)
- At your name the mountains (Phil Wickham, Tim Hughes © 2011 Thankyou Music& Phil Wickham Music & Seems like Music)
- God has put his angels (Alison Moon © 1993 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- Our God is an awesome God (Rich Mullins © 1988 BMG Songs Inc)
- There is power in the name (Noel Richards © 1989 Thankyou Music)
- The splendour of the King (Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves & Ed Cash © 2004 sixsteps Music)
- We don't believe the devil's lie (SWAT march) (Sammy Horner © 1991 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- You are mighty, You are holy (Craig Musseau © 1989 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing)

iii) Songs about the Lord's forgiveness and restoration. Ideas include:

- All of my heart (Doug Marks-Smircich © 1991 Right on the Mark)
- As the deer pants (Martin Nystrom © 1983 Restoration Music Ltd/Sovereign Music UK)
- Before the throne of God above (Charitie Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook © 1997 Sovereign Grace Worship)
- I desire Jesus (Scott Ligertwood © 2011 Hillsong Music Publishing)
- Keep me close to you (Alan Price © 1994 Daybreak Music Ltd)
- Light of the world (Tim Hughes © 2000 Thankyou Music)
- Love the Lord with all your heart (Nick & Becky Drake © 2011 Thankyou Music)
- My Jesus, my Saviour (Darlene Zschech © 1993 Darlene Zschech / Hillsong Publishing/Kingsway Music)
- You are my anchor (Stuart Townend © 2001 Thankyou Music)

iv) Final song. Ideas include:

- Guide me O my great Redeemer (William Williams)
- I'm gonna walk by faith (Jim Bailey © 1994 Kingsway's Thankyou Music)
- I'm not backing down (Tim Hughes © 2008 Thankyou Music)
- Lord the light of your love is shining (Graham Kendrick © 1987 Make Way Music)
- There is a higher throne (Kristyn Lennox & Keith Getty © 2002 Thankyou Music)
- We want to see Jesus lifted (Doug Horley © 1993 Thankyou Music)

Appendix 2 - Drama - “The Chocolate cake”

Cast: Person 1, Person 2

Props: Chocolate cake, sprinkles, spoon in Person 2's pocket

.....
(Enter person 1 and person 2)

Person 1: Hey.....I have arranged a surprise for everyone today. Let me go and get it.
(Exit person 1 who goes & gets a large chocolate cake and puts it on a table at the front)

Person 2: I wonder what the surprise will be

Person 1: Look at this – it is a chocolate cake I bought to share with everyone at the end of the service.

Person 2: How lovely – I do adore chocolate cake

Person 1: Well don't touch itI just need to get the sprinkles to decorate it with, as I didn't have time before the service. (Exit Person 1)

Person 2: I must say this looks totally scrumptious

Person 1: Leave it alone!

Person 2: Of course....oh this is so hard. Chocolate cake is my favourite. Do you think (name of person) will mind if I just have a little bit? (moves finger towards cake then pulls back) I am sure she didn't really mean that I couldn't touch it did she?
After all she knows how much I love chocolate....it's not very kind of her to leave that right in front of me now is it? (dips finger into chocolate cake to taste it)
Mmmm (moves finger again towards the cake)

Person 1: I can't seem to find the sprinkles... (Person 2 quickly moves finger away from cake)

Person 2: Keep looking....I'm sure they are behind there somewhere (pulls a spoon out of his pocket and digs into the middle of the cake with spoon and cuts out a piece which he eats)

Person 1: Found them....

Person 2: Great...well done (hides spoon)

Person 1: Oh no... look what's happened to my cake....someone has destroyed it

Person 2: Oh yes, what a shame!

Person 1: What a shame, it's a disaster. Now we haven't got anything to share after the service.

Person 2: I suppose there might be..... biscuits!

Person 1: But I bought this specially for today as a surprise for everyone. (Name of person) you have been standing here. Didn't you see anyone come and do this?

Person 2: No...

Person 1: Hang on....you've got chocolate around your mouth – you've done this....you destroyed my cake didn't you?

Person 2: Well now you put it like that, I suppose I did. I'm sorry I just couldn't resist it..

(Exit person 1 and person 2)

Appendix 3 - Drama - "The Telephone Calls"

Cast: Person called "Anyone", "Devil" offstage (speaking through an off stage microphone)

Props: Easy chair. Next to that is a table with a telephone on it, a copy of the Radio Times (or similar TV magazine) and a Bible.

.....
(Anyone walks on, sits down on easy chair, picks up Radio Times and begins to read it)

Anyone: I wonder what's on the television tonight.

(After a few seconds the telephone "rings" and Anyone answers it.)

Anyone: Hello, Anyone speaking.

Devil: *(Speaking very smoothly)*

Good evening Anyone. What a hard day you've had today.

Anyone: Oh yes you're right.....it has been really hard in all sorts of ways.

Devil: *(Speaking very sympathetically)*

I know.....poor you. You really deserve a nice evening in to relax. You really need to watch that X rated film you have just seen reviewed in your Radio Times.....it is coming up shortly on channel five.

Anyone: I'm only going to watch the news as I have home-group tonight.

Devil: It is so lovely and warm in here and you are so tired. Just put up your feet now and relax.

(As Devil talks Anyone starts to relax, sliding down into the chair).

Why not ring for a pizza... a nice pepperoni one..... spoil yourself a bit....you don't need home group tonightwhat you really need to do is watch that film.

Anyone: I don't think I should watch that sort of a film as a Christian.

Devil: What's the problem.....every other Christian does? And how will a little film hurt you? God doesn't mind you watching...you need to rest...it says so in the Bible.

Anyone: Mmmmm. I don't suppose it would hurt me.....really....just this once.....and I am so tired. *(Suddenly jolts upright)* What am I doing? I need to make my tea so that I am ready for home group. I haven't time for listening to this.

(Hastily puts down the telephone.....and stands up)

Now what shall I cook for tea tonight?.....I'd better hurry up.

(Telephone rings again and Anyone answers it standing up)

Anyone: Hello, Anyone speaking.

Devil: That was a very interesting piece of news that Suzy told you about herself today. I'm sure the rest of your office would love to hear all about that. Why don't you ring Beryl? If she knows.....everyone else in the office will know before you even get to work tomorrow. Go on, you've just time to ring her before you go to home-group.

- Anyone: But Suzy said it was confidential.....she trusted me to keep it to myself. I don't want to let her down.
- Devil: Oh come on....don't give me that. That's the most exciting bit of news you've heard in a long time.....imagine what fun you could have if you passed that on...and anyway no-one likes Suzy. She's so stuck-up that people will be delighted to hear that she isn't really Little Miss Perfect.....
- Anyone: Mmmm I'm not sure I should break a confidence. *(Sits down on the chair)*
- Devil: Do you have such a short memory? Didn't she tell everyone last month about how you had run over the bosses' cat in your car, even though you had specifically told her that she was to keep this news confidential?
- Anyone: Oh that was so embarrassing.....and yes that was pretty mean.....I guess it would serve her right.....but it's not right to talk about people behind their backs is it? *(Leans back further in the chair)*
- Devil: Where did you get that from? There is absolutely no harm with sharing a very interesting piece of news with a few of your closest and best friends..... you need to share this.....you know you do.
- Anyone: Maybe I do....but I'm not sure I should.
- Devil: Imagine how popular you would be.....wouldn't that be great after being so unpopular last month?
- Anyone: It would be great....
- Devil: Exactly....come on Anyone.....it's not like you are murdering someone or kidnapping someone.....just tell Beryl.....one little phone call won't hurt anyone.....and Beryl at least would love to hear how naughty Suzy has been.....after she supported you so much last month.
- Anyone: Yes....I'll give Beryl a ring....*(picks up phone then stops....)*
No.....wait a moment.....I think I ought to see what it says in my Bible.
- Devil: Noooo you don't want to be looking at that....put it away...quickly....ring Beryl NOW.....
- Anyone: Last week at homegroup we studied some verses from Ephesians...yes...here we are..... Ephesians 4:29.....
- Devil: Put it away.....don't be so boring....that stuff isn't relevant for us now in the 21st century.
- Anyone: *"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."*
That's the truth.....Hang on.....you were lying when you said it didn't matter what I said. God seems to think it does matter.
- Devil: Aaaaaaah, put that Bible away.....I can't bear it. *(All goes silent)*

Anyone: Hello....hello....ohhe seems to have hung up. Oh look at the time....I haven't got time for tea now.....I must get to my home group....(*puts down telephone, picks up Bible and walks out quickly*)

(Exit Anyone)

Appendix 4 – Puppet Script – “That five pound note is calling out to me”

Characters:



The script is a dialogue between a young boy puppet called “James” who wants to follow Jesus but keeps getting things wrong, and his wise old “Grandad” puppet who helps to sort him out. Each puppet is operated by one person from behind a screen and so it is essential that the voices are heard; radio-microphones are ideal. Puppets and puppet screens can be purchased from many sources including <http://www.onewayuk.com/>

Enter Grandad

Grandad: James, James.

Enter James looking very dejected

James: Oh hi Grandad.

Grandad: You seem a bit low today James. What’s up?

James: I have been in rather a lot of trouble Grandad and I am worried it might happen again.

Grandad: Well why don’t you start at the beginning of this “trouble” and tell me all about it. Together, we might be able to find a way to stop this happening again James.

James: Oh thank you Grandad.

Grandad: So how did this trouble begin?

James: On Wednesday, while I was sitting at my desk doing my maths questions I saw a five pound note on my teacher’s desk and it looked so tempting....I kept trying not to think of all the sweets I could buy with five pounds and then I kept trying not to think about taking it....but you won’t believe this Grandad...

Grandad: What James?

James: It seemed like the five pound note actually spoke to me....it said, “I am begging you to take me.....just take me down to the sweet shop and spend me. I can’t bear sitting on this teacher’s desk any more”.

Grandad: So what happened James?

James: Well I couldn’t resist it’s pleas and I know what it meant about my teacher.....so when her back was turned, writing up some more maths questions on the whiteboard, I quickly took the five pound note and then as soon as school had finished I went and spent it at the sweet shop.

Grandad: I see

- James: Peter my best friend came with me to the sweet shop. He thinks I am really cool because I am just like him now.
- Grandad: What do you mean?
- James: Last week he told me that whenever he sees money lying around, he helps himself to it and spends it as quickly as he can.
- Grandad: Hmm
- James: When I arrived at school on Thursday my teacher sent me straight to the Head teacher's office. Someone had told my teacher that I had taken the money. Now I am going to miss the class trip to *Thorpe Park* on Wednesday as my punishment, and I have to go and do litter duty around the school instead.
- Grandad: That's hard.
- James: I know, but Grandad I am really worried that I might take money again when I see it. You don't know how loudly that five pound note called out to me.....if I took it this time, what will stop me taking it another time?
- Grandad: That is a really good question James and I will begin by giving you a very simple answer. Pray.
- James: Will that help Grandad?
- Grandad: Yes James.....it most certainly will. If you ask your Heavenly Father to help you next time you are tempted to steal something, He will.
- James: Phew.....that's a relief.....but what about that voice in my head Grandad? It kept telling me it was OK to take the money.
- Grandad: That voice in your head James comes from God's enemy, the devil. He is a great big liar and he wants to stop you from following Jesus.
- James: That's not very nice.
- Grandad: The devil isn't nice James.....but we have a great weapon to use against him.
- James: Really? Is it a big sword to cut off his head?
- Grandad: Not exactly.....but it is a spiritual sword.....
- James: Cool
- Grandad: Your Bible is your spiritual sword....it is full of God's truth. Every time the devil whispers a lie to you, you can come back at him with truth from your Bible.
- James: And squash him!
- Grandad: Exactly. Now suppose I was walking past your sweet tin....and the lid was off and I saw some winegums in it....

- James: They're your favourite sweets aren't they Grandad?
- Grandad: Yes they are.....suppose while I was looking at those winegums a voice came into my head saying: "Why not help yourself to one of James' sweets – it is OK to help yourself to one.....after all you are his Grandad?".....
- James: Do you get tempted too then Grandad?
- Grandad: Of course I do James....we all do. Now having had that tempting thought, I remember that it says in my Bible: "You shall not steal," and so I speak out the truth: "stealing is wrong" and then walk away from your open sweet tin and don't take any!
- James: Perhaps I should try and read my Bible more Grandad....
- Grandad: That's a great idea.....your Bible will help you much more than your friend Peter.
- James: I think I have been listening to him too much.
- Grandad: There is one other thing you can do when tempting thoughts fill your mind James.
- James: What is that Grandad?
- Grandad: Think about something else James. Change the channel in your mind and think about something good.....something completely different.
- James: That sounds a bit like what my mum says when I am watching something bad on TV.....she says, "Change the channel James"
- Grandad: Yes James....that is exactly what I mean. Think about something good or go and do something else and then I think you will find that the tempting thought will go.
- James: That's helpful Grandad thanks.....
- Grandad: You know James....temptation gives each one of us a choice. We can choose to give in to it and do wrong....
- James: And that feels horrible Grandad
- Grandad:or we can choose to resist the temptation and do something good....that is one of the ways we grow to be more like Jesus. Now would you like to go fishing with me James? That's why I came round.
- James: I'd love to Grandad. But before we go, please could you lend me a pound....I just need to nip to the sweet shop and buy mum another bar of galaxy.....the one that dad had bought her was sitting on her desk and you wouldn't believe how loudly it was calling out to me.
- Grandad: Oh James!

Exit James and Grandad

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Appendix 5 – Praying on “The Armour of God” (from Ephesians 6:14-17)

Father God

- † I put on the **belt of truth** around my waist.
Help me listen to and act upon your truth alone,
and not be deceived by the devil’s lies.

- † I put on the **breastplate of righteousness**.
Thank you that because of the cross I can be righteous in your sight.
Help me resist and refuse to entertain evil suggestions,
and to live my life in a way that honours you.
Guard my heart Lord.

- † I put on the **shoes of the gospel of peace**.
Lord help me walk in your will today,
and leave “footprints of peace” wherever I go.

- † I stand behind the **shield of faith**,
trusting in you to protect me;
secure in the knowledge of your goodness, love and power.

- † I place the **helmet of salvation** on my head.
Jesus you are my salvation.
Thank you that all the riches of heaven are mine in Christ.
Would you mount a guard over my thoughts.

- † I take up the **sword of the Spirit**.
Holy Spirit please fill me so that I can stand for you today.
Help me hear your voice bringing a Scripture or instruction at my moment of need.

- † I ask for your encircling hedge of protection to be around me and my family.
In Jesus’ Name, Amen.