

## Study Guide

Series: Sermons on the Lord's Prayer  
"Lead Us Not Into Temptation"

**Monday** - Read *Psalm 23:1-3; Romans 8:12-14*. What do these passages teach us about God's desire and willingness to lead us, if we are willing to follow? Read *Galatians 5:22-26*. What direction does God want our lives to take? What forces work within us to resist this direction, although the outcomes sound so pleasant to our ears?

**Tuesday** - Read *Psalm 119:104-106; John 16:12-15; James 1:2-5*. How do you discern God's leading in your life? Name some things that cause "static"—that interfere with your connection, and make it hard for you to "hear" God's voice.

**Wednesday** - Read *Romans 14:20-23; James 1:12-16*. How do you decide if some attitude or activity would be sin for you? What is the difference between rationalizing in the face of temptation and honestly determining that a particular choice is not spiritually harmful to you? Read *Matthew 5:29-30; 1 Peter 5:8-9*. What vivid images are used in these verses to show us how seriously we need to take temptation and sin? Gehenna, the word used in *Matthew 5:29-30*, did not mean "hell" as cartoonists now picture it—red-suited devils with pitchforks, etc. Can you find out what place the word referred to in Jesus' day?

**Thursday** - Read *Romans 6:20-23; John 3:17-19*. Are you ever inclined to think that sin (in your life or someone else's) is "no big deal"? How do you internalize and fall victim to this kind of temptation in your life? Who do you have in your life that you can share, when necessary, the life-and-death nature of moral choices without being judgmental, self-righteous or condemning?

**Friday** - Read *John 10:2-5, 11-15*. Identify a situation in your life where it is particularly difficult for you to follow Jesus (e.g. in the office, in traffic on the freeway, watching a Little League game, when alone at the computer, or whatever). Make an action plan to change that part of your life so that you can stay more attuned to the Good Shepherd's voice, and ask your spouse or close friend to support you in following through.

**Saturday** - Read *Luke 9:23-25; Hebrews 12:1-4*. Sometimes it's very clear what God is asking of us—but we just don't want to do it. Is there a "sticking point" in your life, something that feels really costly and painful to even think about changing? If so, open yourself to the message of these Scriptures, wrestle things out with God (see *Genesis 32:24-20*), and either share your struggle with your spouse or close friend, or contact your pastor for help.