



LEADER GUIDE

LENTEN SMALL GROUP STUDY

6-WEEKS LEADING UP TO EASTER

Week 1

Sunday, February 18

Title: Saying Yes and Saying No

Scripture: Luke 4:1-13

Action:

Examination of Conscience

Prayer Practice: As provided in the video, pray using the Prayer of Examen.

Preparation for small group gathering: watch sermon from February 18.

Welcome to the Group: (15 minutes) Have each member of the group say their name and one fact about them that others might not know. The leader should start to give the group members time to think.

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*)

Opening Video: The opportunities to say yes or no, and the opportunity to choose wrongly. (2 min) Press Pause on the video after Pastor Mike's introduction and questions.

Group Discussion: (20 minutes) Answer as many questions as time allows. Answer the questions that feel pertinent to your group.

1. Read Luke 4:1-13 with your group.
2. Discuss the temptations of Jesus. Why do you think these temptations were particularly important for Luke to mention?
3. How does Jesus' response to his temptations inspire you?
4. How are you tempted today?
5. What triggers your temptations?
6. Who do you go to for support when you feel tempted?
7. When are you tempted to say "yes" when you should say "no"? And when are you tempted to say "no" when you should say "yes"? How do you know the difference?
8. Consider a form of social injustice that concerns you. What action would result in saying "yes" or "no" that you believe the situation requires?

Video: Pastor Mike presents the Action. (8 minutes)

Questions: (5 minutes)

1. How did this feel?
 2. Did you have any insights that you'd like to share?
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Hand out Prayer of Examen cards to the group.

Encourage your group to use these cards in their prayer time each day this week.

Prayer Time: (10 minutes) Introduce prayer as a community practice. Use whatever method you prefer, or use the example below. Invite the group to go around the table and each person offer up a prayer for the week.

Say to group: As a community of faith, we have the privilege to hold each other in our prayers. Each week, our group will close our time together by lifting up any joys and concerns. Please take note of the prayers requests so that you may revisit them throughout the week.

Closing prayer: Gracious and loving God, we praise you for your son and the example of his faithfulness. We strive to live and be like Jesus, but we need your guidance. Help us this week to focus on you. Help us as we examine our lives to make more time for you. God, we praise you for bringing us together. Today, we lift our joys and concerns up to you. We ask that you care for each of us, our families, our church, and our community throughout this week. Be with us until we gather again. In your son's name we pray. Amen.



Notes:
