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UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL



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First Baptist Church Subang Jaya

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TEMPTATIONS



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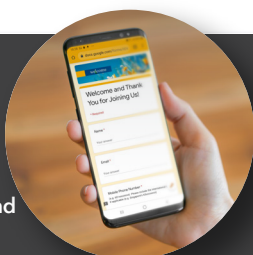
Battlestar Galactica was a sci-fi TV series first aired in 1978. It is about the survivors of 12 human colonies looking for Earth after their home colonies were destroyed by the Cylons. The Cylons, a machine race, were created by the humans but the Cylons found the humans to be inferior and needed to be

destroyed, and so waged war against them.

I found the TV series very entertaining, but the script for the series I suspect may have been inspired by the Bible. That's because the Bible also tells the story of an alien race out to destroy mankind by using a clever but

NEW?

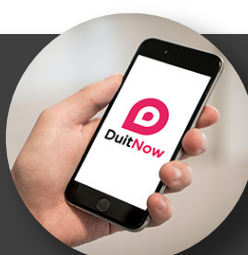
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devious weapon- temptation. Temptation makes mankind weak and succumb to self-destruction.

Jesus said in John 10:10a that “the thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” He was of course referring to the devil. Jesus knew him well for the devil had tried his tricks on Jesus before, but to no avail. This was after Jesus fasted for 40 days in the wilderness.

There is a story on the internet that tells of how temptation leads to disaster:

A donkey was tied to a tree. The devil came and untied it. The donkey ran into the fields and began destroying the crops.

When the farmer’s wife saw this, she shot the donkey. The donkey’s owner got so upset that he shot the farmer’s wife.

When the farmer saw his wife dead, he went and shot the donkey’s owner. The wife of the owner of the donkey then told her son to avenge the death of his father and burn down the house of the farmer.

The boy went and carried out his mother’s bidding, assuming that the farmer too would have been burnt alive, along with the house. Sadly for the boy, that wasn’t the case. When the farmer came back to see the charred remains of his house, he promptly went and shot the wife and the son of the donkey’s owner.

Struck by remorse, the farmer asked the devil why all those terrible things had to happen. The devil replied, “Why, I did nothing at all! Oh, except release the donkey. It was all of you who reacted, overacted and released the inner devil.”

The devil doesn’t do anything but wake us up by triggering the ego in us that turns into evil intent and goes about harming others, and ourselves!

The only thing the devil needs to do is simply release the donkey within us. That donkey is temptation.

Temptation comes in many forms. Common ones are lust, career, promotion, property, material things, fame, old flames, etc. This leads to sin, like pride, corruption, stealing and piracy.

The Bible has this instruction to beat back temptation in James 4:7: “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Of course, it’s easier said than done, and for that reason, we need the wisdom and willpower of the Holy Spirit.

There is however one temptation for which the only escape is to flee: youthful passions. 2 Timothy 2:22 says, “So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” ‘Youthful passions’ are not confined to erotic pleasures; it includes the things of this world, like wealth, career, possessions, fame and recognition. Nevertheless, lust is high on the list.





Temptations have a way of sneaking up on us. A person does not become a drug, alcohol or sex addict deliberately. No one becomes an addict by simply wanting to become one. It is through engaging in drugs, alcohol or sex frivolously and, before you know it, those involved fall hook, line and sinker. You've become an addict.

Temptation also comes upon a person by challenging their ego and bravado. It overwhelms a person's reasoning and common sense, making them lose sight of what's good and decent.

In accident investigations, especially in aircraft accidents, investigators work backwards from the point of accident to when things began to unravel. This beginning is known as point zero. This point can be difficult to determine because it is often an innocent move.

Temptations are the point zeroes in broken lives. Temptation on its own is not a sin; it becomes a sin only when one yields to it. Every time we overcome temptation, a better person emerges, much like a phoenix rising from its own ashes.

The key to not getting into trouble is to not get tempted. However, this is easier said than done because more often than not, it's temptation that comes looking for you. You can flee from temptation, and that works sometimes, but not always.


Two things work against you. The first is that temptations are fast runners, and they may soon overtake your flight. The second is that temptations

have endurance, and they may overtake you after you get tired of running away. This is especially true for temptations that create curiosity and doubt, just like when the serpent tempted Eve.

So, what are we to do? Hymn composer Horatio Richmond Palmer wrote:

*Yield not to temptation,
for yielding is sin
Each victory will help you,
some others to win
Fight manfully onward,
dark passions subdue
Look ever to Jesus
and he'll carry you through*

*Shun evil companions,
bad language disdain
God's name hold in reverence,
don't take it in vain
Be thoughtful and honest,
kindhearted and true
Look ever to Jesus,
he'll carry you through*

*Ask the Saviour to help you
Comfort, strengthen and keep you
He is willing to aid you
Jesus will carry you through* 



By Merrill Leong

Merrill serves with FBC's Alpha, Beta, and Karis ministries.

Life Group Splash Featuring

Ohana LG

Describe Ohana in one sentence.

We are a group who actively shares deeply and sincerely.

What is Ohana's story?

Ohana was formed in January 2018. There were a few new church members who were looking for an LG and so we got together! An American couple who were the pioneering group leaders decided on the name "Ohana", a Hawaiian word meaning "family".

Tell us more about Ohana.

Today, we are a group of 13 active members who are foodies. We meet on alternate Fridays, from 8pm to 9:30pm. Prior to the MCO, we met at members' homes in the Subang/ USJ area, specifically at Corine's and Paul's houses. Many of us are singles and ladies, and our ages range from being young at heart to late-60's.

At this moment, Ohana has adopted this Bible verse: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." (John 8:7)

- We acknowledge that we are all sinners in this journey called 'Christian living'.
- Hence, we need to support and grow one another in the faith.
- As we walk alongside one another, we need to do so with patience, forbearance, and love without judgement.

What does being a Life Group mean to Ohana?

We get together to fellowship and learn from one another about God through the sharing of our experiences and journey with God. There is much camaraderie among us as we support and encourage one another.

It is our joy to see that a few of the newer Christians among us have grown in their faith and their personal lives. With a number of us who are singles, our LG is also a place of warm fellowship and support, especially during this pandemic.

Share something unique that Ohana has been doing in the past year.

We adopted an Indian family of believers early in the pandemic, and have been helping them with groceries and support. We also helped a fellow LG member by providing spiritual, moral, and financial support through her medical journey.



Share some memorable Life Group activities.

Outings to the park and the many makan sessions, like sampling seafood delicacies in Kuala Selangor-- not forgetting Pak Gor Yee Mai and MK ice cream!

What would Ohana say to someone who is yet to be part of a Life Group?

Come and join us for a session and experience what LG is all about!

Belum kena, belum tahu.

Sudah rasa, setiap minggu mahu! 🍷

[Join A Life Group Today](#)

| Pulpit Program

May 23, 2021

How Do We Relate to God - Reflections from a Psalm of David

(Psalm 16:1-11)



PREACHER
Lee Yee Dian

May 30, 2021

Kingdom Fasting

(Matthew 6:16-18)



PREACHER
Ps Leon Lim

June 6, 2021

Church Discipline

(1 Corinthians 5)



PREACHER
Ps. Massimo Gei

June 13, 2021

Handling Anxiety

(Matthew 6:25-34)



PREACHER
Dr. Peter Ng

| Worship with Us



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YOUTH SERVICE

| ZOOM |
Sundays 9:00am



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Sundays



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PRAYER SPOTLIGHT

Covid-19 Pandemic



1. In this time of COVID-19, we pray that when we aren't sure, God, help us be calm. When information comes from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern. When fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day, slow us down, God.
2. Help us to reach out with our hearts when we can't touch with our hands. Help us to be socially connected when we have to be socially distant. Help us to love as perfectly as we can, knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear."

3. We pray for the doctors, nurses, technicians and janitors, aides and caregivers, researchers and theorists, epidemiologists and investigators. We pray for those around the world who are sick, for those who are grieving, and for all who are affected. We pray for safety, health, and wholeness.

4. May we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, and house those without homes. May we walk with those who feel they are alone, and may we do all that we can to heal the sick— in spite of the epidemic, in spite of the fear. Help us, O God, that we might help each other. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

(Original prayer by [the Right Rev. Richard Bott.](#))

| Upcoming Events



Understanding The Book of Ezekiel
10-week Study
With Dr Leong Tien Fock
Beginning on 7 June 2021
Every Monday

[CLICK HERE](#) to register



Is There More to Life Than This?
22 July to 7 October 2021
Every Thursday
8:00pm

[CLICK HERE](#) to register



The Pastoral Epistles
Study on the Books of
1 Timothy, 2 Timothy & Titus
Every Wednesday
8:30pm

Zoom ID: 830 3462 5458
Password: fbc

[CLICK HERE](#) to view video lessons.
(Password: **fbcgamma**)



Daily Prayer Meeting
Every Saturday
to Thursday
9:00pm
Zoom ID: 929 735 694
Password: pray



Monthly Prayer Meeting
29 May (Saturday)
2:00pm to 3:30pm
Zoom ID: 869 8003 5137
Password: pray

[More Information on Upcoming Events](#)