

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? God tempts no one. We pray in this petition [little prayer request] that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

By praying this petition, *we are recognizing the real threats to us of:*

- our spiritual enemies (see 1 Peter 5:8–9; James 1:13–14; 2 Timothy 3:1–4)

- the methods they use (see Genesis 3:1–7)

- the purpose of their temptations (see John 13:2; Matthew 27:4–5; Luke 22:54–60; 2 Samuel 12:9)

Read **Mark 4:1–20**. What are the various dangers to faith mentioned in this parable? Is falling away/being pulled away from the faith an immediate thing or something that happens over time? What people or things could lure *you* away from Jesus?

By praying this petition, *we are confessing our own weakness*. We will never overcome them and win the victory by our own strength. Are there times you relied on your own strength? What was the result?

By praying this petition, we are *asking our dear Father in heaven for His help in temptation*. How does God guard and keep us Jesus in temptation? Read the promise of **1 Corinthians 10:12–13**.

- Through our champion, Jesus (see Matthew 4:1–11)

- Through the Word of Christ, the Holy Spirit, Baptism, Absolution, the Lord's Supper, and the gift of prayer as armor and weapons (see Romans 13:14; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:11–18)

- Relying on Him strengthens our faith! (On the testing of faith, see James 1:2–3; Matthew 15:21–28)

Finish by reading together **Psalm 91**.

Dear Father, You have asked me to pray.
Help me not to fall because of temptation. Amen!