

## Harry Potter Meets Jesus SMALL GROUP #7

### Hagrid's Remorse and Percy's Return:

#### How Temptation, Repentance, and Reconciliation work in our lives

1. Can you give an example of something in your life where you thought it was a small thing, and so ignored it, and then it ended up being a really big deal? Examples might include, ignoring a leak to the point it rotted your house, or ignoring a parking ticket that then accumulated to a huge amount. Something that would have been much easier if you had just dealt with it while it was still small.
2. If you got to hear the sermon about Hagrid and Percy, what point most struck you and why ?
3. Are you more tempted towards self-indulgent pleasure or hyper-responsible self-importance ? Looking back over your life, why do you think that is ?
4. Read James 1:14-15

Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

If you had to pick one word in this verse that most strikes you, what would it be and why ?

5. Read **1 Peter 5:8**

Be self-controlled and alert.  
Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Does this verse ring true to you or do you find it hard to believe ? Why or why not ?  
When it comes to temptation and choosing to sin, according to these two verses, who does the bible hold responsible for what ?

6. Can you give an example from your own life of a step you take or a rule you keep that helps you from falling into a particular kind of sin ?

7. Read **LUKE 15:11-24**

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he

went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 **For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.**' So they began to celebrate.

8. Now read Luke 15:25-32

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.

27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.

30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

9. Which of the brothers are you more like ? Why do you say this ?

10. Jesus is telling us this story to explain both our natural tendencies (seen in the younger and older brothers) and God's nature. According to this story what kinds of sins are we most tempted to pursue ?

11. According to this story, what authority does God have ?

12. According to this story, what is God's personality like ?

13. Do you consider yourself a Christian ? If so , what steps led to you viewing yourself as a follower of Jesus ? If you don't consider yourself a Christian, what things make you hesitant to jump full in ?

14. Break up into partners and pray for each other. Pray especially that the person might feel and receive God's love for them.

## BULLETIN NOTES

"There is no good or evil – there is only power... and those too weak to seek it..." - Voldemort

### James 1:14-15

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### 2 Corinthians 7:10

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

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Christianity is not a religion; it is a personal relationship with Jesus that occurs when I make Him the Lord and Savior of my life.

## EPHESIANS 2:8-10

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works

VERSE TO MEMORIZE : Luke 15:24 **bolded above**

QUESTION TO PONDER: Have you ever had a conversation with God where you chose to turn around, go home, and ask Him to take you in ?