

## Tips for Facilitators – Lesson 6A

These tips present a completely optional, extra lesson that focuses on “*Discerning Patterns in Trials*.” If you do not intend for this to be your small group’s focus for Lessons 7-12, then you will not need this lesson’s notes. We conducted this lesson in 1 hour, moving at a focused and steady pace.

If your small group’s focus for PRACTICAL APPLICATION is going to be on discerning patterns in trials, then this lesson is preparatory for Lesson 7, but is a complete lesson on its own.

### PREPARATION

- We did not have a read ahead for this lesson. However, you can make more time for the lesson if you use the “*Discerning Patterns in Trials*” **Handout** as a read ahead. This handout is downloadable from the AUDIO page. It is located under Lesson 6A.
  - o This handout has 3 sections: Overview, Judas, Peter.
  - o If you use it as a read ahead, the Overview section is the part for all to read... you will look at Judas and Peter sections during the lesson.
  - o If you don’t use the handout as a read ahead, at a minimum you will want to have discussion on the 1<sup>st</sup> two points of the Overview section. Those explain the concept of discerning patterns in trials.
- If you do not use that handout as a read ahead, you will need to make sure everyone has a copy at the start of the lesson.
- You will also need copies of the Trials Awareness Tool (a.k.a., the FIEL Tool) for each person in your small group. This tool/handout is also downloadable from the same area on the AUDIO page.
  - o The FIEL Tool can be downloaded and printed. Or, it can be downloaded and a person can type in it and save their notes. Everyone will need a hard copy to look at in the lesson. But, you might want to mention that individuals can download it and type in it if they prefer doing things on their PC/Tablet. If that is the case for someone, they’ll need to go to the AUDIO Supplemental page and download it themselves.
  - o **CAUTION: The FIEL Tool actually consists of 10 pages of blank form.** They all look the same, but this was necessary to provide a saveable form for those who like to keep notes on the form on a PC. When you go to print it, if you tell your PC to print 10 copies of the whole thing, you will end up with 100 pages in your printer! If you just want to print a few copies to hand out, tell your printer you want however many copies of PAGE 1 only!
- Remember, anyone can download these handouts. You can do it yourself or delegate it.

## THE OVERALL CONCEPT FOR THE LESSON

- The idea is to walk everyone through the Judas and Peter sections of the lesson.
- Each passage in the Judas and Peter sections of the handout deals with a trial. The only exception to this is John 13:29, which describes Judas as the “treasurer.”
- As you read the passages that talk about one of Judas’ trials, the idea is for everyone to put themselves in his shoes and do their best to identify what his old self (old nature) wanted, did or thought about in that trial.
- You can also challenge people to try to identify Judas’ heart disturbances – the group will probably do well at this because they’ve been doing this in the previous lessons. **However, the goal is to take that a step further and identify the temptation and the appeal of the temptation to Judas’ old nature.** The following are important questions to ask and try to answer with each trial you look at.
  - o What did Judas’ old self want to do?
  - o What old self thoughts might have come to Judas mind while his heart was disturbed?
  - o What did Judas actually do in his old self?
  - o What did Judas’ old self cause him to avoid doing?
  - o What deeper view or value did Satan tempt Judas with? (this value or view is going to be a lie about how Judas was or could be in Christ)
  - o Identifying old self actions AND inactions is the key.
- When you are done with Judas, do Peter’s trials in the same way.
- The last part of the lesson involves talking about the FIEL Tool (Trials Awareness Tool). We will talk more to this tool toward the end of this PDF.

## THE OVERALL FLOW FOR THE ACTUAL LESSON 6A – “DISCERNING PATTERNS IN TRIALS”

- Everyone needs to have the “*Discerning Patterns in Trials*” **Handout**. Review the 1<sup>st</sup> two points of the Overview section and make sure everyone gets the concepts. If you used the handout as read ahead, ask questions, get thoughts and create discussion.
- Dive into Judas’ trials. There are 5 Scriptures to look at with Judas.
- Another time-saver is to go around the small group and have each of the 1<sup>st</sup> five people look up and be prepared to read their passage to the group.
- Use this same technique when you get to the section on Peter.
- Below are the Judas and Peter portions of the handout. We’ve added the observations and notes our small group came up with. Your group may have other insights and perspectives – that’s great.
- **Encourage everyone to make notes – their notes are to help them remember how they discerned patterns for Judas and Peter, so they can work on doing the same with themselves and their trials during the week!**

## NOTES ON THE JUDAS AND PETER SECTIONS BELOW

Each trial below is accompanied by verses. Some have more than one verse reference. **Usually we had someone read just the first reference passage to save time.**

The OBSERVATIONS associated with each trial are points that you can bring out in the discussion. These points will help participants focus on the trial, and to see aspects of how Satan's temptations and deceptions prompt the old nature of the person in the trial.

After Judas' trials, challenge the group to discern possible patterns from his trials. We've provided some possible patterns. They are listed under POSSIBLE PATTERNS IN SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS. These are opposite to POSSIBLE PATTERNS IN THE LORD'S DISCIPLINES AND CORRECTIONS, which are also listed. Note how one contradicts the other! These patterns are also provided concerning Peter's trials.

The same kind of process used to discern patterns in Judas' and Peter's trials are the same ones you will use in Lessons 7-12 with Abram (Abraham) and Sarai (Sarah). This is also the same process individuals will be able to use with their own trials using the FIEL Tool (again, discussed later in this PDF).

### Judas (Treasurer - John 13:29)

#### 1. Being Chosen – John 6:70

##### OBSERVATIONS:

- Jesus chose Judas. Judas was “of the devil.”
- Jesus also said to Peter “get behind me Satan.” Does Jesus' comment about Judas mean Judas had no free will?
- Jesus could see Judas' heart. Judas would have to introspect and change in order to follow Jesus better. Judas had that opportunity with each trial.
- Judas obviously failed in at least some of his trials long before the betrayal of Jesus.

##### OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:

- Did not introspect frequently enough.
- Did not seek out the changes the Lord would have him embrace in himself.

##### WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED JUDAS WITH?

- If I (Judas) have to change, then it means I am not good enough in the first place.

#### 2. Perfume – John 12:4-6

##### OBSERVATIONS:

- Wanting to acquire money for the ministry is not inherently bad.
- What made Judas' comment sinful was what was in his heart.
- Heart disturbance – wants to take advantage of the opportunity to increase the ministry budget. (Perhaps that makes him feel more secure since he takes from it.)

##### OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:

- Completed an action by speaking in support of his desire before seeking out change in himself.
- Thinking his “good” desire to “care for the poor” made having it OK.
- Thinking Mary's use of her gift as less important than having money in the ministry purse.
- Thinking his reasons to justify taking from the ministry purse was OK.

WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED JUDAS WITH?

- If I (Judas) don't get more, then I won't have enough. I won't have value.
- If I (Judas) have to change (in response to Jesus' correction), then it means I am not good enough in the first place.

### **3. Desire To Betray – John 13:26-30**

OBSERVATIONS:

- Heart disturbance – desire to increase his finances.
- Judas motive was not necessarily clear to others, but he could recognize it if he sought to discern it in himself.
- Judas has a choice.

OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:

- Completed an action by getting up and leaving.
- Thinking his desire for financial increase was OK.
- Not accepting the Lord's correction/rebuke.

WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED JUDAS WITH?

- If I (Judas) don't get more, then I won't have enough. I won't have value.
- If I (Judas) have to change (in response to Jesus' correction), then it means I am not good enough in the first place.

### **4. Suicide – Matthew 27:1-5**

OBSERVATIONS:

- Think about this: Have you ever known someone who committed terrible acts? Have you ever heard a story of someone who committed terrible acts?
- If your child committed a terrible act, would you continue to try to love them and get them to seek God's forgiveness?
- Judas was someone's son. If the family of Judas knew he was thinking about suicide, do you think they'd say, "Yes, go ahead and kill yourself." Or, do you think they might say, "Go to the Lord and seek forgiveness. Change your ways in Him and let Him make you clean again."
- Chances are that no matter what anyone did, we'd encourage them to seek the Lord's help, especially if they were thinking of taking their own life.
- Heart disturbance – Judas' desire to escape his bad decisions is the last trial he faced.

OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:

- Completed an action by killing himself.

WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED JUDAS WITH?

- I (Judas) am unforgivable.
- I (Judas) have no value.

**POSSIBLE PATTERNS IN SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS OF JUDAS (i.e., Satan's lies):**

- You don't have enough.
- You have no value unless you gain more.
- If you accept correction, then it means you are not good enough in the first place.
- When your desires come up, it is because they are the ones you need to act on.

## **POSSIBLE PATTERNS IN THE LORD'S CORRECTION/DISCIPLINES FOR JUDAS:**

- Take care of what I've let you possess in this world, and which I have entrusted to you. You have everything you need in Me.
- Find your personal sense of value in Me and Me alone. Be willing/prepared to lose externally to gain in Me.
- Accepting My corrections increases who you are in Me.
- When your desires come up, watch for temptation.

## **Peter**

### **1. Storm – Matthew 14:23-33**

#### **OBSERVATIONS:**

- Peter demonstrates great faith in Jesus and walks on water.
- Consciously, Peter knows that walking on water is only possible in Christ.
- Peter gets distracted by the wind and overlooks his heart disturbance – he became afraid.

#### **OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:**

- Completed an action by doubting his safety.

#### **WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED PETER WITH?**

- This situation is out of my control and I am facing it alone.
- This situation is not normal and I don't have enough control.

### **2. On Jesus Coming Sufferings – Matthew 16:21-23; Mark 8:31-33**

#### **OBSERVATIONS:**

- Jesus is trying to inform and prepare His Disciples for His sufferings, death and resurrection.
- Consciously, Peter loves Christ.
- Heart disturbance – Peter does not want anything bad to happen to Jesus.
- Is Peter's desire fundamentally wrong? No. It becomes wrong when Satan has Peter try to act on that desire at the wrong time.
- Even in fulfilling our "good" desires, we must seek to see if that is God's will.

#### **OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:**

- Completed an action by talking – telling Jesus what he (Peter) thought was "best."

#### **WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED PETER WITH?**

- If God's will is that this bad thing happen (Jesus dies), then I will be alone.
- My (Peter's) love for God is sufficient, my desires indicate how I can show my love, and this means I am good enough.

### **3. Washing of feet – John 13:5-11**

#### **OBSERVATIONS:**

- This trial happens for Peter in the upper room.
- Jesus is demonstrating humility by taking the action of a servant.
- Consciously, Peter loves Christ.
- Heart disturbance (verse 6, 8) – Peter does not want Jesus to be or appear "less than" or humbled.
- Is Peter's desire fundamentally wrong? No. It becomes wrong when Satan has Peter try to act on that desire at the wrong time.
- Peter's view is that Jesus' position should be one of worldly power and strength.

**OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:**

- Completed an action by talking – telling Jesus what he (Peter) thought was “best.”
- Peter’s old self attitude is that his heart disturbance indicates he is right.
- Peter’s old self rejects Jesus’ correction.
- Peter’s thinking is that he sees things very clearly and accurately, including seeing his desires for what they are.

**WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED PETER WITH?**

- If God’s will is that this bad thing happen (Jesus is humbled), then I will be alone.
- My (Peter’s) love for God is sufficient, my desires indicate how I can show my love, and this means I am good enough.

**4. On Jesus Departure – Matthew 26:33-35; Mark 14:29; Luke 22:31; John 13:36-38**

**OBSERVATIONS:**

- This trial is the 2<sup>nd</sup> one Peter has in the upper room.
- Jesus predicts the Disciples will fail him. They will seek to save themselves.
- Consciously, Peter loves Christ.
- Heart disturbance (verse 33, 35) – Peter does not want Jesus to be abandoned.
- Is Peter’s desire fundamentally wrong? No. It becomes wrong when Satan has Peter try to act on that desire at the wrong time.
- Peter is convinced that he sees “the bigger picture” correctly. Peter is not willing to question the “goodness” of his desires.

**OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:**

- Completed an action by talking – telling Jesus what he (Peter) thought was “best.”
- Peter’s old self rejects Jesus’ correction. Peter completes a 2<sup>nd</sup> action in sin by maintaining his own view (verse 35).
- Peter’s old self thinking is that he sees things very clearly and accurately, including seeing his desires for what they are.

**WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED PETER WITH?**

- If God’s will is that this bad thing happen (Jesus is abandoned), then I’ll be alone.
- My (Peter’s) love for God is sufficient, my desires indicate how I can show my love, and this means I am good enough.

**5. On Being Prepared – Matthew 26:36-45**

**OBSERVATIONS:**

- This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> trial Peter has the evening before Jesus arrest.
- Actually, each time Jesus corrects Peter it presents Peter with a new test, or trial. So, this passage basically tells us about Peter’s fourth, fifth and sixth trials.
- Jesus cautions Peter not to sleep. Jesus is trying to warn Peter. Jesus recognizes Peter has been failing in his trials this evening.
- Heart disturbance (verse 33, 35) – Peter does not want to stay awake and pray.
- Peter is convinced that he knows best. Whether he would admit it or not, Peter is usually convinced that his point of view is mostly correct.

**OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:**

- Completed an action by sleeping – three times.
- Peter’s old self rejects Jesus’ correction – three more times.
- Peter’s old self thinking is that he sees things very clearly and accurately, including seeing his desires for what they are.

**WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED PETER WITH?**

- My (Peter’s) my desires are correct and this means I am good enough.

## 6. At The Arrest – Matthew 26:50-54; John 18:10-11

### OBSERVATIONS:

- This is Peter's 6<sup>th</sup> trial in a 24 hour period.
- Consciously, Peter loves Christ.
- Because Peter acted in his old self in the trials preceding Jesus' arrest, Peter was not prepared for this trial. Peter had not accepted the direction Jesus was seeking to take leading up to the arrest.
- Heart disturbance – Peter does not want Jesus to be arrested without a fight.
- Peter has believed all along that he knows best, in spite of Jesus' corrections.

### OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:

- Peter's old self thinking is that he sees things very clearly and accurately.
- Peter's old self assumes that protecting Jesus in the situation is a good thing.
- Completed an action by fighting.

### WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED PETER WITH?

- If I (Peter) let Jesus be arrested without a contest, then I am not good enough.
- My (Peter's) desires are correct and this means I am good enough.
- If Jesus is arrested, I will be alone.

## 7. 3 Denials – Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27

### OBSERVATIONS:

- These are the seventh, eighth, and ninth trials Peter experiences in 24-48 hours.
- Consciously, Peter loves Christ.
- Heart disturbance – Peter feels alone. Peter is afraid of what will happen to him.

### OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:

- Peter's old self thinking is that what he *feels* is right... is right. Therefore, he doesn't need to change.
- Completed an action by denying he knows Jesus – 3 times.

### WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED PETER WITH?

- I am alone.

## 8. With The Jews – Galatians 2:11-14

### OBSERVATIONS:

- This is the final trial we will look at for Peter. It is the 11<sup>th</sup> we have observed. This trial happens about 5 years after being with Jesus – about 2 years after Jesus ascends to heaven.
- Consciously, Peter loves Christ.
- Acts 10:9-11:18. Lord gives Peter (a Jew) a dream about eating unclean animals.
  - Spirit directs Peter to go to Cornelius (a Gentile), which is forbidden by the Law for Jews.
  - Peter realizes the dream meant that God is not showing favoritism and all people can be saved (Acts 10:34-35). Peter baptizes Gentiles who were saved. Peter explained God's view on salvation through Christ to Apostles and other Jewish believers. Gentiles were to be fully accepted as brothers in Christ.
- Galatians 2:11-14. Heart disturbance – Peter avoids the Gentile Christians because he does not want to be viewed as "less" by the Christian Jews.

### OLD SELF ACTION/INACTION:

- Peter's old self thinking is that he sees things very clearly and accurately.
- Completed an action by doing what the Jewish Christians expect.
- Completed an action by avoiding the Gentile Christians.

#### WHAT DEEPER VIEW/VALUE COULD SATAN HAVE TEMPTED PETER WITH?

- If I (Peter) don't distance myself from the Gentile Christians, I might be rejected by the Jewish Christians. If I am rejected, that means I am not good enough, and I'd be alone.

#### POSSIBLE PATTERNS IN SATAN'S TEMPTATIONS OF PETER (i.e., Satan's lies):

- Because you love God and want to show it, your desires are correct.
- Act on your good desires quickly and immediately.
- You are good enough because you intend to love the Lord well.
- You are or will be alone.
- If Jesus is Lord, then His strength should be demonstrated to the world.

#### POSSIBLE PATTERNS IN THE LORD'S CORRECTION/DISCIPLINES FOR PETER:

- If you love Me, then hear and embrace My corrections in your heart concerning your desires.
- Just because you desire something, doesn't mean that is My desire for you. Seek what I desire first.
- It is because of your relationship to Me that you are good enough in Me. Trust the ways I direct you to show your love to Me.
- You will never be alone because I am with you.
- My strength is not of this world. Find your strength in Me alone, not from the perspectives of this world.

#### CONCLUSIONS

1. Though we dive into the trials of Judas, Peter and others in the Bible, it isn't to pick on them or to think ourselves better than they are. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 encourages us to study Scripture. Thankfully, in many cases, multiple trials were for the same person recorded in the Bible. Contained in these passages is a great tool for learning more about the dynamics and elements of trials.
2. Peter had a lot of knowledge of the Lord. Peter walked with Him for 3 years. Peter was even a great teacher. However, **knowledge alone could not enable Peter to be protected from trials**. As with Peter (and everyone else in Scripture) our knowledge of God, His will and His written Word does not eliminate our trials. Our knowledge makes us more accountable. Our knowledge must be **applied**. This is how we are to exercise our free will and transform our hearts in accordance with the Lord's will in a trial. Again, this is because the Lord is disciplining us in trials.
3. Trials involve tests. If we are to pass a given trial's test, we must demonstrate and act according to the Bible's principles of spiritual growth. This involves recognizing the temptation, transforming (changing) our hearts, and discerning how God would have us act. We can say we have faith, but in trials, that faith must be demonstrated in both our hearts AND our conduct.
4. The bottom line is we must see that patterns exist in trials. We need to be adept at discerning our own patterns by the power of God's Spirit within us. Doing that involves not just studying God's written Word, and someone else's trials, but also studying our own trials.



## THE FIEL TOOL HANDOUT

- FIEL is Spanish for “Faithful” – this is at the top of the handout.
- FIEL reminds us that being faithful in a trial involves: **F**eel the heart, **I**ntrospect, **E**xpect the **L**ord. This is also across the top of the columns on the handout.
- There are 4 columns.
  - o Column 1 –the date of a trial. Easy.
  - o Column 2 – express the heart disturbance (everyone has already been doing this in the lessons, and hopefully working to remember during trials!) Easy.
  - o Column 3 – this is what the group worked on in *this* lesson – identify old self action/inaction. This is the only “new” piece to introspection that is being introduced.
  - o Column 4 – discern the change God would have you make in you to transform the heart disturbance to peace during the trial. Remember, this is just like OBSERVATION 2 in the lessons. It can be a change in attitude, point of view, desires, perspective, sensitivity, etc. Easy.
- The FIEL Tool enables us to record trials. It is helpful to do this daily or every other day. Try doing this in conjunction with one’s prayer or quiet time. The more a person records their trials, the more they will discern from those trials.
- Work to record at least 2-3 of your trials on this tool during the week. If you can record more, that would be more helpful. Try to do this at least until you complete Lesson 12.
- By Lesson 12, there will be plenty of trials to help an individual discern his/her patterns in the old self action/inaction column (Column 3).
- What you put in Column 3 can reveal Satan’s attempts at temptation.
- What you put in Column 3 indirectly points to what, exactly, the Lord is trying to discipline and teach you to change in you. When the old self patterns are discerned, an individual is in a position to see some specific patterns in HOW the Lord is trying to grow him or her! This is the ultimate goal of the tool.
- Remember, the tool is just that... a tool. It isn’t a law. Make sure people know that the goal isn’t to get legalistic with it. It is personal, for individuals. Nobody is obligated to make its contents public to anyone else. At the same time, it is OK if people want to share what they learn about themselves and their walk with God by using it.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION TO WORK ON AFTER THE LESSON/DURING THE WEEK

- Use the FIEL Tool
- Don’t forget the read ahead for Lesson 7 in the F102 book.