



Sleight of Hand

CASE STUDY 2

Jason, a college student, glanced in his wallet just as he saw the offering plate start down his row.

Oh, great, he thought as he looked at the twenty and the one in his wallet. Jason quickly slipped the single into the palm of his hand and crumpled it up. When the offering plate arrived, he stealthily slipped the buck under a pile of bills.

Whew! I don't think anyone noticed, he thought. I'm glad I wasn't sitting in the front row. It would have been pretty hard to hide a dollar in an empty offering plate! How embarrassing!

After the service Jason stopped at a gas station to grab a gallon of washer fluid. He pulled out the twenty to pay when he noticed the dispenser of scratch off lottery tickets. Without hesitating he blew the rest of his cash on the tickets.

I promise, God, he said as he walked to his car. If I hit it big, the first twenty bucks is going into the offering plate next week. Mark my word!

1. What temptations did Jason fail to resist?
2. Read Genesis 3:1–6 to review Satan's tactics in tempting us to sin. Which ones do you think Jason is particularly susceptible to?
 - Satan raises doubt about God's goodness.
 - He causes us to focus on restrictions.
 - He denies our sins have consequences.
 - He appeals to our self-interest.
3. What might be some long-term repercussions of Jason's behavior?
4. Which of Satan's tactics have you identified as particularly effective in your life?
5. What would you predict about your success in resisting temptation based on your current in-take of God's Word?
6. Plan one way to increase your study of and meditation on God's Word.