

GROWTH GUIDE

For you. Your family. Your group.

THE BOOK OF JAMES
TEMPTATION | JAMES 1:13-18
FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

SERMON OUTLINE

1. Clarity to understand temptation. James 1:13-14
2. Caution to respond to temptation. James 1:14-15
3. Hope to escape temptation. James 1:16-18

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Looking back at James 1:13-18 and your notes from Sunday, is there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Check for understanding: Define temptation. Is it a sin to be tempted? Why or why not? If not, when does it become sin? As we grow in Christlikeness, how should we expect the amount of temptation or our response to temptation to change?
3. What does it mean that sin is in our nature? In what ways do we have (or have you seen in your own life) the natural inclination to sin compared to the ease or naturalness of doing the righteous thing? What about sin makes it so enticing to us?
4. Name some of the most common desires that turn into idols or lead to sin. Are these desires inherently wrong? Why or why not? If not, when do they become desires that conceive (James 1:15) sin? How can we be on the lookout for or preparing ourselves now for when these temptations/desires inevitably come?
5. Share some tools/strategies for fighting temptation that have helped you halt the progression of temptation. In other words, what are some things that can be done in the moment of temptation to help resist it before desires have led to sin?

BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

1. What sin would you say you have recently struggled with most that the group can help hold you accountable for growing in? What does what you're struggling with say about what you desire?
2. Reread 1 Cor 10:13 and Numbers 32:23. What excuses for giving into temptation do these two truths eliminate? What other excuses (lies) do you tell yourself in the midst of temptation to do something you know displeases God to justify it to yourself and proceed anyway?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Praise God that when temptation comes He always provides a way of escape for us.
2. Pray for the 5-year anniversary next Sunday: for a sweet time of fellowship, and for guests from the community to join us.
3. Ask God to protect us from temptation and to help change our desires to be in line with God's word.