



Session 2 - James 1:13-18

Welcome! – Day to Day: Reflect on your week with your group. How was your daily time with God? How did you apply what you learned the last time we met?

Keys To A Great Experience

- Show up
- Join in
- Be real
- Be sensitive
- Be Confidential

Follow Up From Last Session – James 1:1-12

Main Point This Session

We all face various temptations and struggle with how to deal with them. Even Jesus experienced temptation (Mt 4:1-11; Heb 4:18). Our lesson in Session 2 challenges us to resist and persevere through these temptations.

Intro Question

When was the first time you remember doing something wrong that you knew you were not supposed to do? Why did you do it and how did it make you feel afterwards?

Engaging God's Word

Open your Bible to James 1:13-18

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Discussion Questions:

1. According to James 1:13

- Who is not responsible for the temptations we experience?
- Why can't God be tempted or tempt anyone?

2. According to James 1:14

- Where does temptation come from?
- What types of temptations tend to be enticing for you?

3. According to James 1:15

- What are the progressive stages that begin with temptation or desire?
- Have you ever seen this progression in someone else's life (see Gen 3; 2 Sam 11:2-17)?
- Have you ever experienced this progression in your own life?

4. According to James 1:17-18

- "Every good and perfect gift" comes from God. Why do you think that James steers his discussion on temptation in this direction (hint: see 1:16).
- How do you think followers of Jesus can resist temptation and the progressive stages of destruction described in 1:15?

Applying God's Word

- What God gives you is better than whatever is tempting you. Do you believe that?
 - Why?

It's hard to believe that when you are being tempted. We often assume that the best way to fight temptation is self-discipline. Grit your teeth and do the right thing. Just say NO! And there is nothing wrong with saying NO! But we also must say YES! NO! to the temptation and YES! to the kind of life God wants to give us.

- Think about what your best strategy is to fight temptation. What can you do to prepare for temptation?

Prayer Time

Think of this as a time for people to really share and receive prayer for what is going on in their lives. Discourage people from primarily sharing prayer requests for other people (e.g. "please pray for my grandmother's uncle"). Such prayer requests lead to superficiality. Instead, encourage individuals to share prayer requests related to their own concerns, struggles, and needs.

Live It Out

1. Pray and invite someone to join you for our Bible study on James next week.
2. Confess an area of sin in your life to God. Identify what triggers the temptation in your life and also the real desire that your temptation is trying to meet in an unhealthy way. Pray for wisdom in this area.
3. Ask God for someone you can be accountable to regarding your temptation or struggles. Can you arrange to meet with them every week or two to let them know how you are doing? Fighting temptation can be a lonely business, but it doesn't have to be. Pray and ask God to send you someone!

Notes

Intentional Time With God

In Your Day...In Your Heart

Spend a few minutes each day reviewing and reflecting on our session, the verses from the book of James, and your group discussion. Also, reflect on the verses below and their application to your life. Make sure you take a few moments to pray about your relationship with God, others (leaders, family, friends, those in your group) and spend a few moments just being silent and listening to God.

Day 1 – James 1:13-18. Read and reflect on what you've learned.
Let God prompt your heart as you read, reflect, and pray.

Day 2 – Matthew 4:1-11. How did Jesus handle temptation?

Day 3 – Matthew 26:41

Day 4 – Psalm 51:10

Day 5 – Matthew 6:9-13. Pray the Lord's prayer with special focus on "Lead us not into temptation."

Day 6 – 1 Corinthians 10:13

Day 7 – Hebrews 4:15-16