

Hooked
Wk 1/1: Bait and Switch
Nov 2 & 3, 2019

LEADER PREP

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To help students say no to temptation by realizing that, in every temptation, there's a hook that will hurt them.

SCRIPTURE

James 1:13-15 & Romans 5:8

THINK ABOUT THIS

- 1) When it comes to temptation, your middle schoolers might be all over the map. One student's biggest temptation might be to sneak a peek at their neighbor's math homework, while another might be a more serious temptation. As you prepare to lead your small group, think about how you'll manage that tension. Remember, a part of your job is to create a safe place for each of them to be heard and known.
- 2) Don't put pressure on students that they have to share details of their temptations. If they are comfortable sharing, great! Let them know you can talk to them about any temptations if they don't feel comfortable talking in front of the group separately.
- 3) We don't want to miss the gospel and just preach "moral goodness" with this lesson. Everyone knows it's good to overcome temptation, but we are missing a BIG opportunity if we don't point students to big parts of the Gospel: **When we ask Jesus for forgiveness, He always grants it. And we don't have to overcome temptation in our strength, but we can turn to God for strength.** Think about how God helps you through temptation and share that with your students.



CONVERSATION GUIDE

MAIN POINT

There is a hook in every temptation.

GET THEM TALKING

What is your favorite junk food?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you define temptation?
2. What are some examples of temptations middle school students face?
3. Why can temptations sometimes be so hard to resist?
4. Who can share a success story of overcoming a temptation.

READ JAMES 1:13-15 and answer the following questions:

5. What does this passage say we are tempted by? (Explain what it means in your own words.)
6. In your own words, explain the progression listed in James 1:15.
7. How can you ask other people to help you when you feel tempted?

READ ROMANS 5:8 and answer the following questions:

8. When does this verse say Jesus died for us? What does that say about His love for us?
9. Instead of believing that God is mad at you when you give into temptation, how can you hold onto the truth of His love for you instead?

NEXT STEP

As a group, make a list together of some common temptations (at least 10). Take a vote to see which of those temptations are most difficult for your group to say no to. Together, come up some ways to fight your groups' top one or two temptation this upcoming week.

PRAYER GUIDE

God, please help us overcome our temptations and trust that you have a better way for us to live. We love you.

Close your time together in prayer.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

SCRIPTURE

MS students are concrete thinkers, so opening your Bible to read the Scripture with them is a preferred visual cue.

JAMES 1:13-15 (NLT)

“And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, “God is tempting me.” God is never tempted to do wrong,^[6] and he never tempts anyone else. ¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.”

ROMANS 5:8 (NLT)

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”