



TODAY'S MAIN POINT

Temptation promises life but always leads to death.

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE(S)

James 1:13-18

TEACHING GOAL

Students will understand that temptation is deceptive and leads somewhere harmful, and they will begin recognizing common temptations in their lives and choosing to trust God's way instead.

Let's Break the Ice:

- What's a "just one more time" situation that never ends up being just one more time? (Keep it light... think snacks before bed, one more YouTube video, etc...)
- When was the last time you were excited for something fun but ended up being disappointed by it?

LEADER NOTE: Start your discussion by sharing the context of the :

James shifts from external pressure (trials) to **internal struggle (temptation)**. He makes it clear that God is not the source of temptation—instead, temptation begins with our own desires and grows if left unchecked. James outlines a progression: desire → sin → death. His goal is to expose the **deceptive nature of sin** and remind believers that God is not withholding good from us—He is the **giver of every good gift**.

Bible Study:

- Read Together or ask someone to summarize: **As a group, read James 1:13-18** (*Telos Bible Pg. 1213*)

Discussion Questions:

- According to James 1:13, what is God's role in temptation?
 - Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
- In James 1:14–15, what progression does James describe that leads from desire to sin?
 - Can anyone describe a scenario where that can play itself out?
- What are some temptations people your age deal with commonly?
- What are some of the lies temptation usually tells you? (ex. "This will make you happy" or "it's not that big of a deal")
- What would it look like to pause and question that lie in the moments instead of just going along with it?

Make it Real:

- When we give in to temptation, the enemy either tries to minimize or maximize the sin. He either says, "it's not that big of a deal" or "you just did the worst thing ever".

According to the Gospel, what is the truth? (*Leader note: Be prepared to meet your students with the truth of the Gospel here. Slow down and lean in*)

Discipleship Moment:

Identify the Lie: When you feel tempted this week, take these steps to thinking rightly:

- Name the lie
- Replace it with the truth of God's Word
- Talk to God about it immediately.

Partner Check-In: Pair students up and have them commit to checking in with their partner at some point during the week or during your next gathering.

Prayer:

- Close with group prayer
 - Take prayer requests
 - Celebrate what God has done over the last week