



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 one food or snack that it's really hard for you to say no to?
- Have you ever seen an ad or a trailer that made something look amazing but it turned out to be disappointing?

LEADER NOTE: Start your discussion by sharing the context of the Book of James (you should have done this last week, but you may have new students or it could be a good refresher):

The book of James was written by James, the brother of Jesus, who became a leader in the early church in Jerusalem. He wrote this letter to Christians who had been scattered to different places because of persecution, and many of them were going through hard and stressful situations. James wanted to help them understand what real faith looks like in everyday life, especially when things get difficult. Even though this letter was written a long time ago, it's still really helpful for us today because we also face pressure, temptation, and tough choices that test our faith.

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, where does temptation **not** come from?
- 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?
- Why do you think temptation often makes something look better than it actually is?
- What are some temptations middle school students commonly face?

- What is one practical thing you can do to avoid or resist temptation when it shows up?

Make it Real:

- Sometimes we give in to temptation because we believe something will make us feel better, happier, or more accepted. What do you think temptation promises people your age? (*Leader note: Be prepared to meet your students with the truth of the Gospel here. Slow down and lean in*)

(GROW DEEPER - OPTIONAL) Discipleship Moment:

Ask God for Wisdom: When you feel tempted this week, pause and ask yourself: "Where will this choice lead?"

Then ask God to help you choose what is right.

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