



MAIN POINT	MAIN BIBLE VERSE
Temptation promises life but always leads to death.	James 1:13-18
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.	
Teaching Script / Guide	

HOOK

- Have you ever seen a trailer for a movie that made it look amazing... only for the movie to end up terrible?
 - Trailers show the best parts.
 - Their goal is to make something look way better than it actually is.

OR

- Share a personal story about a time when you were really excited for something only to be disappointed by it.
 - Maybe you ordered a meal because the description sounded good, but it tasted terrible
 - You were excited for a ride at an amusement park, but then you waited 2 hours for a boring ride.
- Temptation works the same way
 - Temptation shows you the exciting part
 - But it hides the consequences

TENSION:

- Temptation tells us lies like:
 - "This will make you happy"
 - "No one will know"
 - "It's not a big deal"
 - Everyone else is doing it"
- And sometimes when we give in, we blame God
 - "God, why did you let this happen?"
 - "Why did you make me like this?"
- But as we'll see today in James, there's an important truth we need to remember:
 - **God is not the one tempting you.**

SCRIPTURE:

- We are continuing our walk through the book of James and in James 1:13-18, James talks about temptation, it's consequences, and he teaches us how to go about overcoming it.
- **READ or INVITE A STUDENT TO READ JAMES 1:13-18**
 - We're not going to cover all of this today, but each week someone will read more of this letter, and by the end of the Summer, we will have read all of the book of James together as a group!

- We're going to walk through this passage and highlight some of the shocking things James is saying.
- **James 1:13**
 - God never tempts us, because He loves us and His desire is to set us up for a life of godliness, not to derail us.
 - If you need a reminder: This is why Jesus came. If God wanted to make life more difficult for you, He would have never sent His Son, Jesus, to come and do the impossible FOR us.
 - James' point is that since God is good, temptation to do evil can't possibly come from Him.
- **James 1:14-15**
 - James moves on to explain how temptation works:
 - He says, **it starts with our own desires.**
 - Then that desire grows....
 - Sin happens...
 - Sin leads to death...
 - It's a chain reaction that has no other outcome because the wages of sin is always death.
 - Even for those of us who have put our faith in Jesus, we have overcome the power of sin because of what He has done for us, but it's important to remember that sin ALWAYS has consequences.
 - Sin *might* lead to pleasure, but it will *always* lead to harm.
- **James 1:16-17**
 - But God is altogether different.
 - God doesn't try to trick us like sin does.
 - God doesn't bait us the way sin does.
 - God only gives good gifts.
 - While temptation over-promises and under-delivers...
 - God's promises always deliver the life He said it would.

TRUTH:

- Temptation always advertises life, but it can only deliver destruction.
- God is not trying to take good things away from you by guiding you away from temptation, He's protecting you from something that wants to destroy you.

APPLICATION/SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION SET UP:

- Ask:
 - Where do you feel tempted the most?
 - Lying
 - Cheating
 - Gossip
 - Looking at things online that you shouldn't
 - Being cruel to someone
- Temptation grows in secret, but when you talk about it and ask God for help, it loses its power.
- Challenge:
 - When temptation shows up this week, pause and ask:
 - Where does this actually lead?
 - And pray to God, ask for wisdom, and He will show you a way out.

INVITATION/CLOSE:

- Everyone faces temptation. You're not weird for feeling it. But God gives us the strength to say no.
 - Pray that students would trust God's goodness more than temptations promises.
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