

Session 6

James 1:13-18

Prayer

As a group, spend time praying through the verse below. Consider each word and meditate on the promises and commands of the scriptures. Make note of any insights, questions, moments of clarity, convictions, gratitude, or promises as needed in your reflection.

"¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."

-1 Corinthians 10:13

Suggested Prayer Prompts

Prayers of gratitude for the gift of scripture.

Prayers for understanding what God is communicating through this study.

Prayers for spiritual growth and maturity as you study.

Prayers for conviction as you strive to be more like Christ.

Prayers that the Lord will bring your group together in unity and accountability as you study

His word.

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Sermon Tie-In

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal black ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines in total. On the left side, there is a vertical margin line, creating a narrow left margin. The entire sheet is framed by a thin black border.

Memory Minute

MAY CHALLENGE

James 1:5-11

How many verses can you memorize this week? Shade in a block for each verse you learn!

5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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“The word, stored in the heart, provides a mental depository for the Holy Spirit to use to mediate His grace to us, whatever our need for grace might be.”

-Jerry Bridges

See page 11 for this week's practice exercise.

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Launch

James uses visual metaphors throughout the book to create pictures in our minds so we can more easily understand important ideas.

A visual metaphor is an image that the reader is meant to understand as a symbol for something else.

We typically use these expressions in our everyday lives as well. To get our minds ready for what James will be doing, take a look at some of the examples below.

Read the metaphor, draw or imagine the picture that comes to mind, and write or discuss what the metaphor means. Feel free to share other favorite metaphors as well.

Metaphor	Image	Meaning
He's such a couch potato.		
I've been on an emotional roller coaster.		
His mind is as sharp as a bowling ball.		
She has more problems than a math book.		
He is a big fish in a small pond.		

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THE WORD

James 1:13-18

Before we take a deeper dive into the scripture, take a minute to soak up the entire section together. Listen for repeated phrases, unfamiliar words, several points in a row, attributes of God, ideas you don't fully understand, or any other thoughts that come to mind. Feel free to note them below or just relax and take in whatever God may be speaking to your heart.

“¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”

[illegible]

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Explore

A

James 1:13-15

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

Up to this point, James has explored the topics of trials and testing from various angles. In this portion of scripture, he begins discussing the idea of temptation. While it sounds similar, temptation has several significant differences in source, purpose, and result. We'll be asking ourselves 3 questions as we dive into what those differences are and why they matter.

To start, read the definition of temptation below.

Tempt: to entice or attempt to entice (someone) to do or acquire something that they find attractive but know to be wrong or not beneficial

Who (or what) is the source of temptation?

Reread James 1:13 below.

¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one."

In this first verse, James does not directly tell us the source of temptation. Instead, he eliminates a possibility.

Who does James tell us is NOT the source of temptation?



NOTE



Not only does he tell us that temptation is not from God, he also specifically states that God himself cannot be tempted. **Temptation has no influence on God or His relationships with His children.**

While James is clear in his statement of who is NOT the source of temptation, we must consult other scriptures as we examine who IS.

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Read Matthew 4:1-3.

"¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

According to this scripture, who tried to tempt Jesus and continues tempting us today?

What is the purpose of temptation?
(And how is this different from testing?)

Scripture shows that temptation comes from Satan.

Read 1 Peter 5:8

"⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

What does this scripture say is Satan's goal in the lives of believers?

How does he use temptation to accomplish this?

To answer this, let's compare the definition of temptation from the previous page to the meaning of testing.

Tempt	Test
to entice or attempt to entice (someone) to do or acquire something that they find attractive but know to be wrong or not beneficial	take measures to check the quality, performance, or reliability of (something)

According to what we've studied so far (James 1:2-3), which option could potentially be used by God for our good?

In contrast, if temptation is used by Satan (the deceiver), we know it is for evil purposes.

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What is the result of temptation?
(And how is this different from testing?)

James uses vivid visual imagery to describe the dangers of giving in to temptation. Read verses 14 -15 paying attention to the progression listed. Make a note of the visual metaphors.
(Hint: fishing, labor, gardening, etc...)

"¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

Essentially James describes the danger of temptation like the "equation" below.

DESIRE + SIN = DEATH

Galatians 5:16-21A describes many of the *"desires of the flesh"* believers battle. Satan uses those sinful tendencies to deceive us into prioritizing those things that seem right to us, but are described in scriptures as being against the will of God.

We will share and pray over these in the final section, but now simply take a moment to yourself to list some temptations that you may be struggling with. What comes to mind first? Consider the desires you are fighting in an effort to avoid sin and honor God with your life, as opposed to spiritual death and separation from Him, as described here.

B

James 1:16-18

"¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

James begins verse 16 with instructions not to be deceived, meaning to accept as true what is false.

Take a moment to focus your mind on what is true and of God, not of our own sinful desires and the evil pursuits of Satan.

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First, we need to consider what deception is James warning against. This is tricky because while James does not directly state the potential deceit, he does offer truth we need to fight against lies.

Read the beginning of verse 17.

"17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights..."

What type of gifts does James say are from the Father of Lights?

_____ and _____

If this is what is true, what is false, and the deception James warns against?

In the section above (verses 13-15) we were reminded that temptation is NOT from God. God does not attempt to trap or trick his people. Instead, Satan is actively trying to deceive us into doing what is evil in the sight of God by following our own sinful desires.

In contrast, verses 16-18 reminds us that God desires what is good and best for His people.

Read the rest of verse 17. Then follow the directions regarding the image below.

"...with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.



- 1.) Draw a rectangle around the shadow of the CANDLE.
- 2.) Draw a circle around the shadow of the FLAME.

I hope you found task 2 impossible. While light can cast a shadow of another object, light does not have a shadow itself. Regardless of the viewpoint, the flame will not change. It will not cast a shadow. It is consistently light.

Now write the word FATHER on the flame.

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Read 1 John 1:5-7 below.

"⁵ This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin."

What does this scripture, combined with the imagery of verse 17, teach us about the character of God and His work in the life of the believer?

Finally, read James 1:18 below.

"¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

Write the word/phrase that best indicates God's heart towards humanity.

God created humanity on purpose.

We have seen several places in scripture that shows God only does what is good and right.
Therefore, it is good and right that God created us.
We are unique from all other creations.

Read Genesis 1:27 below.

*"²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them."*

We are created in the image of God to live lives that reflect and honor Him.

In the application below, we will consider what that looks like in our lives today and what temptations we may experience that draw us away from His purpose and goodness.

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Apply

Reread the final verse of this portion of scripture below as we take time to process and apply what we've learned so far.

"18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

We saw God created human beings of His own free will. He was not forced or coerced in any way. It is His desire that we be in the world. But why?

James tells us that we are to be the firstfruits of God's creatures. We are to offer ourselves to Him as a sacrifice, accepting His offer of salvation, and making daily choices to live our lives according to His standards found in scriptures.

Refer back to the temptations that came to your mind as you worked through this portion of scripture.

Spend some time together, sharing the struggles you may be facing in your life, specifically the temptations that are clearly opposed to God's will for us.

Make note of your own struggles as needed, but also those areas other group members may be battling to refer to as you spend time in prayer throughout the week.

Pray together now, asking God to for strength and wisdom as you resist those temptations together. Pray that God would show your group how you can love and support each other and as well as offer accountability as you continue to pursue the God things of God.

Use the following scripture to guide your prayer time.

"28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

-Romans 8:2

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Memory Work

James 1:5-11						
For this week's memory work, unscramble the words of one verse each day. Use the word bank to write each scripture by hand in the correct order in the space below, then check yourself. Once you have the verse correct, cover the section you have completed. Next, rewrite the verse from memory three times in your scripture journal!						
James 1:5						
lacks him. you will	who generously let	If to of	all wisdom, gives	him any and	without God, given	it be ask reproach,
James 1:6						
in driven let no	for wind. who doubts	like one him of	with wave doubting, the faith,	the a the by	is and ask tossed	sea that is But
James 1:7						
not will	he For	suppose the	from anything	person receive	must that	Lord; that
James 1:8						
all unstable	is	man,	ways. his	he	in double-minded	a

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James 1:9																				
his	boast	brother	exaltation, lowly	in	the	Let														
James 1:10																				
flower the	humiliation rich	will because pass	grass his in	the a like	of away.	and he														
James 1:11																				
withers its and his	For will with beauty rises	flower perishes. the the and	the the its So rich	its scorching heat man midst	pursuits. of falls, grass; fade	also in away sun														
Use the chart below to track your study habits by checking off each day you study! <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th>Day 1</th> <th>Day 2</th> <th>Day 3</th> <th>Day 4</th> <th>Day 5</th> <th>Day 6</th> <th>Day 7</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table> Check in with other group members who are attempting the challenge and encourage each other to practice every day! <i>¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”</i> -Colossians 3:16							Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7							
Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7														

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