

## James - Temptation

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James 1:13-21

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### **Reflection & Discussion Questions**

#### **Temptations have the potential to destroy us**

Like trials, they can bring about steadfastness too, but the two are different

\*What are some differences between trials and temptations?

#### **God does not tempt us**

James is saying it's actually something going on inside of you.

Read and discuss James 1:13-15(ESV)

*<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*

\*What can we learn about temptation from these verses?

\*When have you blamed God or others for a mess you found yourself in?

\*What does a 'lure from our own desire' look like?

#### **We don't fight our temptations by fighting harder against them**

We fight our temptations by YIELDING to God.

\*What does it mean to yield instead of fight?

\*How can we peel back some layers for an honest look at what tempts us?

\*Is there a trigger or lure based on some brokenness that needs to be addressed?

#### **In contrast to the origin of temptation is the origin of goodness**

Every good gift has its source in God.

Read and discuss James 1:16-18(ESV)

*<sup>16</sup> Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

\*How do verses 16-18 contrast with 13-15; the trajectory of death versus the trajectory of life?

\*What do you think James means by 'firstfruits'?

#### **We have to let our faith change everything inside of us**

We are saved by receiving what he has given to us.

Read and discuss James 1:19-21(ESV)

*<sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

\*What do verses 19 & 20 say in context about dealing with temptation?

\*How does being quick to listen and slow to speak and get angry help us find the lures that entice us?

\*The word 'receive' here means more than to passively accept – to fully embrace. How have you embraced the word to put off the old and put on the new?

## **Join us as we read through the book of James this fall as a church**

[James Reading Plan](#)

September 13 – 19th James 3:1-18

**Visual reflection (Visio Divina)\*** [reveal](#) by Andrew Bradsworth

**Song for reflection** [Father of Lights](#) by Aeron Brown

\*Visio divina – a thoughtful and slow way of contemplating a visual prompt like a piece of art, photograph or image and inviting God to speak to you through it. First, focus on the detail that your eyes are drawn to right away – keep focus there and pay attention to what thoughts and emotions you are having. Then, look at the entire image and consider it as a whole, being aware of thoughts, questions and emotions it provokes. End in silence and prayer, considering your experience and anything you feel called to respond to.