



God Has an App for That!

Leaders Notes Week 2

“Overcome Temptation”

James 1:13-27

1. God tests his people (e.g., Abraham, Genesis 22; Israel, Ex. 16:4; Hezekiah, 2 Chron. 32:31) so that their character is strengthened, but He never tempts (i.e., lures people into sin). Since God cannot be tempted with evil, and He is unreservedly good, He would never entice human beings to sin or seek to harm their faith. The picture changes to a birth/rebirth metaphor, as full-grown desire bears its own child, sin, which itself grows into maturity and bears the grandchild, death. This dramatic depiction shows the terrible result when one gives in to temptation.

2. Here are some examples of biblical figures that were tempted by their own evil desires. In addition to these examples, allow your group to share some personal illustrations of people they have seen or experienced themselves.

Eve was tempted by Satan as well as her desire to eat the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:6).

King David was tempted by his lustful desires and committed adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11).

Samson was lured by the deceiving Delilah and the deception led to his death (Judges 16).

3. (See answer 1 for where temptation leads) and contrast it with James 1:17. He moves from evil temptations (which God never gives) to the observation that every good gift and every perfect gift comes from God (cf. Matt. 7:11). As in James 1:5, James reminds the readers of God's goodness. In their trials, God is not tempting them to sin, but the difficulties in life are intended to strengthen and perfect them and make them more like God. God's intentions for them are always for good (cf. Rom. 8:28). God is unchanging in His character and therefore, in His giving of good, unlike the variation of the night changing to day or the shifting shadow caused by the sun or moon. In James 1:18, “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth” speaks of spiritual salvation, with “us” meaning believers, the “word of truth” being the gospel, and “give us birth” (that is, from the womb) being a metaphor for the new birth.

4. Go around and share. Remember, this question is meant to get everyone involved. Be encouraging to members so that they may feel comfortable to share.

Tip: When people share their struggles with one another, it helps promote spiritual growth through community and transparency. As a leader, you lead the way of how to model this.

5. We read throughout the New Testament the same reoccurring theme of proper Christian living. "Put away all filthiness" pictures the stripping off of dirty clothes based on a desire to have nothing to do with the dirt (here, moral evil) ever again. In place of filthy behavior, the implanted word must take root in God's people. The other verses you just read speak to the same type of Christian living. The point is to focus on the things of God, and by default, you will avoid falling into temptation. Save your souls refers here to progressive sanctification and ultimately, the completion of God's saving work on the last day.

6. Hearing the word without action is self-deceptive, while hearing that results in doing the word is a blessing. Someone looking intently at his natural face in a mirror and then, forgetting what he was like demonstrates the folly of examining oneself in God's "mirror" of the "implanted word" (v. 21) and then, doing nothing about it (v. 22). When one sees imperfections (as when looking in a mirror), common sense says something should be done about it. The deception is not doing what one knows he ought to.

7. The outcome of a doer is "he will be blessed". This person is free to love, free to serve, free to forgive, and lastly free to live.

Blessed means: endowed with divine favor and protection.

Encourage members to share an area of their life where they are not experiencing freedom.

8. Go around and share. The central theme of this section is practical Christianity mandated by "the word of truth," which is the gospel (v. 18), and characterized by both truly "hearing" and then resolutely "doing" the truth. Obedience is the hallmark of the true child of God. Share some practical ways of doing this.

9. Fill in the blanks on your study guide. Allow your groups a few minutes to fill in their answers. You can do it aloud or individually and share afterwards.



FURTHER STUDY |

There is a reoccurring theme throughout scripture for each one of these topical studies. Take this week as the Leader of your group to immerse yourself in the reading of the Word and see how these verses can help you download God's app to overcome temptation.

- Genesis 3:1-4
- 1 Peter 5:8 -9
- 2 Corinthians 11:14-15
- Proverbs 1:10
- James 1:13-15
- James 4:7
- Matthew 4:1-11
- Matthew 6:13

