



inside out

A SERMON SERIES IN THE BOOK OF JAMES

MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK 2 – DON'T TAKE THE BAIT

¹³When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

¹⁶Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

– James 1:13-18

TRUTHS ABOUT TEMPTATION

- God is _____ the _____ of temptation
- Temptation _____ us by _____ to our evil desires
- Temptation _____ us _____ when we _____ the _____
- Temptation _____ but delivers _____
- There is always a choice to _____ or _____ our evil desires

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

- _____ for the _____ of temptation
- _____ your _____ from the deception of temptation
- _____ over your evil desires
- _____ God's _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

DIGGING DEEPER

1. How is fishing a good illustration of temptation?
2. How do you feel after you give into temptation and fall into sin?
3. Why are our evil desires so appealing?
4. What is the lie of temptation? How does buying into this lie make us more likely to give in?
5. According to James 1:15, what is the ultimate outcome of giving into temptation?
6. Why is there no one else to blame but yourself when you choose to sin?
7. How can knowing that temptation is going to come prepare you to overcome it?
8. How can you protect your heart from the deception of temptation?
9. What disciplines can you incorporate into your life that can help you practice restraint over your evil desires?
10. How does questioning or doubting the goodness of God make you more vulnerable to giving into temptation?
11. How are God's gifts described in James 1:17? How can believing this help you wage war against temptation when it comes?
12. How can other people assist you in fighting back against your evil desires?