

JAMES - THE ART OF FAITHFUL LIVING

WEEK 2: FAITHFUL IN TEMPTATION: BAIT & HOOK

JASON BRINKER - 9/15/24

GROWING TOGETHER *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE ICE-BREAKERS)*

- If you haven't had a chance to get to know one another yet, pair up for 5-10 mins and ask one another questions to get to know them. Afterwards, tell the group about the person you just got to know a little better.
- If you've been together for a while, share something no one in the group may know about you, like a secret talent or skill you have.
- Share your Summer experience.
- If you have time, and only if you feel comfortable, share your testimony.

GROWING WITH GOD *(ANSWER ALL OR JUST SOME OF THE QUESTIONS)*

THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA: Faithfulness to Jesus in the face of temptation means recognizing the bait of sin, resisting it, and choosing God's unchanging goodness.

Read James 1:12-18 & Hebrews 4:15 aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

We're reminded that while God allows trials, He doesn't tempt us to sin—temptation comes from our own desires. As followers of Jesus, we're called to stand firm and reflect His love, even when life gets tough.

- **Is there one thing (or two or three) you could do this week to be light and truth to those around us who need Jesus?**

James tells us to remain steadfast during trials and temptations. Temptation itself isn't the problem—it's how we respond to it. James urges us to rely on God for strength, rather than turning to temporary comforts. Just as Jesus was tempted but never sinned, we are called to resist and trust in God's greater plan.

- **After hearing Pastor Jason's message this weekend, how has your understanding of temptation evolved? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?**
- **What steps can we take to respond in ways that strengthen our relationship with God?**

James reminds us that every good and perfect gift comes from God, who is unchanging in His love and purpose for us. His love is constant, shown perfectly through Jesus' sacrifice. Even when we mess up, God's goodness and love remain. Jesus, the perfect gift, was tempted just like us but never sinned. That's why we need to take temptation and sin seriously.

- **In light of James' reminder that every good and perfect gift comes from God, how does understanding God's constant love and Jesus' perfect example influence the way you approach temptation and sin in your own life?**

In closing the sermon, Pastor Jason asked some questions for us to consider and answer, whether quietly or aloud. Here's one of them.

- **Why would we continue to live a life that Jesus died to save us from?**

GROWING IN SCRIPTURE AND OBEDIENCE

HERE ARE SIX INSIGHTS PASTOR JASON GAVE US TO REFLECT ON.

1. Faith in Jesus Christ is going to produce faithfulness to Jesus Christ. (v.12)
2. Everyone is tempted. (v. 14)
3. It's not a sin to be tempted, it's a sin to give into temptation. (Hebrews 4:15)
4. The trials out in the world can produce temptations inside you (Hebrews 4:15)
5. God is never the author of temptation or evil. (v. 13)
6. The goodness of the love of God is unchanging. (v. 17)

TEMPTATION STARTS WITH:

- Desire (v. 14)
- Deception (v. 14)
- Disobedience (v. 15a)
- Death (v. 15b)

- **Resist Temptation (James 1:13-15)**

Let's commit to recognizing when temptation arises and choosing to stand firm in faith. Reflect on areas of your life where you may be tempted and ask God for strength to resist, knowing that He has promised the crown of life to those who endure.

Life Group Leader: Encourage group members to identify and discuss personal temptations in a supportive environment. Create opportunities for accountability, where members can pray for each other and check in on their progress.

- **Anchor Yourself in God's Unchanging Goodness (James 1:17)**

Take time to meditate on God's unchanging nature and His goodness toward you. When life feels overwhelming or when you're tempted to look for comfort in lesser things, remember that God's love and purpose for you remain steadfast. Make it a daily practice to focus on His goodness through prayer or scripture reading.

Life Group Leader: Lead a group session focusing on God's unchanging nature, encouraging members to share personal stories of how they've seen God's goodness. Suggest daily scripture or devotionals that focus on God's steadfast love.

- **Pursue the "Better Things" God Has for You (James 1:17-18)**

God wants the best for you, and through Jesus, He has given you access to a life of freedom from sin. Reflect on areas where you may be settling for less than what God has in store. Identify one habit or pattern you can change to pursue a more fulfilling, God-centered life.

Life Group Leader: Offer practical guidance by helping members set personal goals to replace unhelpful habits with healthier, faith-centered ones. Follow up during the week to check progress and encourage them in their commitment.

GROWING IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

This week's song list if you'd like to worship with your group.

[Praise](#)

[Anything is Possible](#)

[I Thank God](#)

[Trust in God](#)

[Touch of Heaven](#)

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