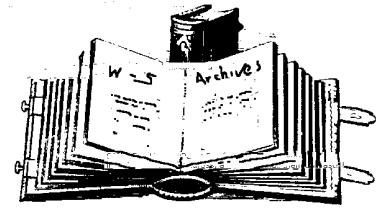


THE BOOK OF JAMES

We've already dealt with a lot in our study of James, and we've only read 12 verses!

Flip through the studies you've done so far. Has anything grabbed you? Has anything confused or bugged you?



TURN TO JAMES 1:13-18... Yeah baby! Here's a big topic. Flip quickly to 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13. So it sounds like no one is being tempted by something unheard of or brand new.

TEMPTATION



How do you struggle with temptation? Your small group should be a place where you can share such things safely and confidentially. Please remember that no one is to talk about what is discussed in small group outside of the group.

The words to the worship song *Father of Lights* clearly comes from this passage.

*Father of Lights,
You delight in your children
Your children*

*And every good and perfect gift comes from you
Father of Lights*

*Father of Lights
You never change, you have no turning
No turning*

If we struggle with temptation and sin, how can God possibly "delight" in us? What does that look like to you?

End in prayer: Pray for each other regarding what was shared about temptation; but focus on how "every good and perfect gift" in our lives helps us to deal with these temptations.

LEADER'S GUIDE

It is important that trust and confidentiality be building in the group by now. **A discussion of temptation is fruitless unless the students start learning how to talk about the things that tempt them.**

So ask yourself, *"Is this group ready for this discussion?"* If not, you will want to re-examine where the group is in terms of maturity and depth of discussion. Are you letting them get too rowdy? Distracted? Dominated by one or two students? Feel free to call Kelly if you feel stuck or at a loss as to where to go next.

OBJECT LESSON

Open this lesson with an attention grabber. Buy an old-fashioned mousetrap at the hardware store (you can get them at Sav-On sometimes as well). If you are able, buy one for each small group member. *Don't save this till the last possible minute, or as an errand on the way to small group. Sometimes the old-fashioned kind of traps are harder to find.*

Spring back the mousetrap and load it with cheese or a piece of paper or an eraser. If you really want to have fun, use a toy mouse (cat toy?) and bring it closer and closer to the trap until it snaps.

If you want, you can wait to use it until you get to the "How do you struggle with temptation?" question. Hold the mouse at some distance, and as each temptation is listed, move the mouse a step closer. They will be gripped as they wait for the trap to snap!

However, you want to also make sure you have a GENUINE discussion about what tempts them as individuals. This needs to be a serious time of sharing as well. It would be helpful for you to set the tone in terms of sharing; but please be careful to not share something that is not age appropriate, or should be something best shared with your own friends & peers. These students should not be "supporting" you.

Think about entering these things shared in the small group journal. It will be valuable to look back on this in the months and years to come.