



## Week 2 Discussion Guide

**Main Passage: James 1:12-18 ESV**

### Opening

- Begin with a brief welcome and prayer to set the tone for the group time.
  - **Introduce the theme:** Trials are unavoidable. But what often surprises us is that when pressure rises around us, temptation rises within us. James helps us understand the difference between the two—and reminds us that while temptation leads toward death, God is always leading us toward life.
- 

### Discussion Questions

#### CONNECT

- When life gets stressful or painful, what's your typical response? Do you tend to withdraw, get frustrated, distract yourself, work harder, blame others, or lean into God?
  - Has there ever been a difficult season of your life, where in hindsight you realized it help you grow/mature spiritually? Is anyone willing to share?
- 

#### DISCOVER

**Read Together: James 1:12-18**

#### Initial Observations:

- What stands out to you most in this passage? Why?
- Why do you think endurance is such an important part of spiritual maturity?

#### DIG DEEPER

- James is clear that God doesn't tempt anyone; but there are plenty of examples in Scripture of God testing someone. What is the difference between temptations and testing?
  - When you are tempted, what's your natural response: Talk to God about it, talk to someone else about it, or try to beat the temptation on your own?
  - What do our temptations reveal about our hearts?
  - In **verses 16-18**, James redirects our attention from sin's deception to God's goodness.
    - Why is remembering God's goodness difficult during trials?
    - What is one "good gift" from God that reminds you He is still faithful in this season?
-

## APPLY

The sermon talked about 4 practical steps for becoming “temptation tough”:

1. **Be honest about your desires**
    - *Optional: Is there an area where you’re tempted to rename something instead of confronting it honestly?*
  2. **Cut off temptation early**
    - *Optional: What is one practical boundary you could put in place this week to reduce temptation’s influence?*
  3. **Seek accountability**
    - *Optional: Who is someone you trust enough to be honest with when you’re struggling spiritually?*
  4. **Preach the goodness of God to your heart.**
    - *Optional: Which lie about God do you tend to believe most often?*
      - *God is holding out on me*
      - *Sin will satisfy me*
      - *I deserve this*
      - *Obedience will cost too much*
        - *What truth from Scripture could help you fight that lie?*
- Which of these is most difficult for you, and how can we, as a group or someone in our group, walk alongside you?
- 

## RESPOND

Encourage everyone to name one next step this week:

- Confess something honestly
  - Remove a source of temptation
  - Ask someone for accountability
  - Spend time daily remembering God’s goodness in Scripture
- 

## GROUP PRAYER

**Start with a time of personal reflection:**

- **ASK:**
  - *“God, where am I overlooking needs around me?”*
  - *“What have You already placed in my hands that I can use?”*

**Pray Together as a Group**

**Pray:**

- **Steadfastness:** Ask God to strengthen anyone facing temptations or trials right now
  - **Victory:** Ask for courage, clarity, and accountability to overcome temptation
  - **Confidence in God’s goodness:** Ask God to reshape our hearts to trust Him more
- 

## CLOSING

- Encourage everyone to continue reading James in their free time. Next week’s passage is James 1:19-27 ESV