

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read James 1:13-16 and 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

CONNECT Group study questions, James 1:13-16**February 23, 2014****Title: Understanding How Temptation Works**

Read to the group: Back in the 1970s comedian Flip Wilson's character Geraldine used the line, "The devil made me do it" to explain the situations she got herself into. It was always a good line for a laugh, because everyone knew she had no one to blame but herself for yielding to temptation. I suspect James would agree (verse 14), but I doubt he would think it funny. Fighting temptation is serious business.

Question: In verse 2 James tells us to count it all joy when we encounter trials, because the testing of our faith produces endurance. When the trials come as temptations, should we count them as joy also? What do you think, and why? In what circumstance or outcome can temptation produce patient endurance?

Question: Every one of us has sinned, and the primary reason we sin is temptation. 1 Corinthians 10:12 warns us about the black ice of temptation. Just when we think we are on firm footing, a patch of ice sends us flying. Without feeling obligated, would one or two of you describe a time when you thought you could handle temptation only to suffer a fall? Or describe a time when extreme caution prevented you from falling into sin?

Question: If temptations are so common and never unique, why do we let them trip us up so often?

Facilitator: Could it be with the last question that we want the enticement temptation offers more than the victory from overcoming it?

Question: What good would come from sharing temptation experiences with other Christians you trust, or studying the experiences of Bible characters who either fell to temptation or overcame temptation?

Question: Have the group read Gen. 39:6-12. Had Joseph fallen to the temptation and slept with Potiphar's wife, what other temptations would Joseph likely have encountered?

Question: Read Genesis 39:10. In this verse the temptation pursued Joseph like a linebacker pursuing a quarterback. What do you think the top five temptations are today that pursue Christians like that linebacker?

Question: In what way was God faithful in providing a way of escape for Joseph in his temptation?

Note: God gave Joseph the faith and the power to remain faithful to Him and to run from the temptation.