

Facilitator

1. Open with Prayer
2. Welcome any newcomers
3. Read James 1:13-15 and give a five-minute review of the sermon using Peppy's sermon notes.

Facilitator: Please don't feel you have to cover every question. Try to keep your discussion to an hour and a half at the most.

CONNECT Group study questions, James 1:13-15

March 9, 2014

Title: How to win over temptation, part 2

Facilitator: Remind the group that there are two major enemies to the Christian life: the devil (1Peter 5:8), and the old nature (Galatians 5:17), and that the battlefield is within each of us—in our minds.

Read: When I was a child I was convinced that if I misbehaved, my mother always knew it. (I didn't know about the neighborhood network of moms.) I was accountable to my parents. They created a boundary of acceptable behavior, and now that I'm an adult, I still have a sense that I'm accountable to them even though they passed away years ago. I don't follow all the standards they established, but when I don't, I know it. That's how accountability works.

In Winning the Battle Over Temptation, Part 2, we take a look at accountability, the second barrier to prevent temptation from joining lust and desire and giving birth to sin (James 1:14-15).

Question: What ways can you think of in which you are accountable for what you do or don't do in everyday life? (Think work, play, family life, traffic, etc.) Do the standards that hold you accountable help you or hurt you in the activities you thought of?

Question: In Hebrews 10:25, "...not forsaking our own assembling together, but encouraging...", the writer speaks to the importance of church. What has been your church experience in the past? Have church people encouraged you along the way in your Christian walk? Is it safe to seek encouragement in church? Explain your answer.

Question: Read verse 24 of Hebrews 10. How do you suppose we can "stimulate one another to love and good deeds?" How does this relate to accountability?

Question: When we fail—when we sin—our integrity suffers. What steps would you take to rebuild your integrity if you lost it? How would allowing someone to hold you accountable help you rebuild?

Question: Read Proverbs 27:17. What ways can you think of that a man or a woman can sharpen another as iron sharpens iron?

Question: Paul, Barnabas and Timothy illustrate three relationships that involve accountability. Can any of you describe for the group a relationship you have had in which you have been held accountable, or someone asked you to hold them accountable?

Question: How willing would you be to make your life transparent to someone else? If you devoted your life to disciple someone else at their request, how would that affect the way you behave?