

**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 2, 2014****Title: How to win over temptation**

**Read to the group:** In a 1971 Pogo comic strip, cartoonist Walt Kelly wrote, "We have met the enemy, and he is us." As we delve deeper into the nature of temptation and its enticement to sin leading to death, we learn from this passage in James that we have ourselves to blame.

**Question:** What is it about ourselves that makes us our own enemy? (Read Galatians 5:17)

**Question:** Have you noticed that two people can be confronted with the same situation, and for one it is a temptation to sin while for the other it has no enticement whatsoever? Why is this true? (Read James 1:14)

**Question:** In Joshua 7, Joshua discovered that Achan, against God's command, withheld some of the conquered treasure from the battle at Jericho and kept it for himself. What Achan kept and hid in his tent was probably the equivalent of one paper clip in a Staples store. Why was God angered over such a minor disobedience? (Read James 1:15)

**Question:** Achan's sin had consequences that extended beyond himself to his wife and children. His sin also resulted in the humiliating defeat at Ai that included the deaths of 36 of Joshua's men. What does this say about the idea of the so-called victimless crime?

**Question:** Can you share with the group a mistake or sin you committed which had consequences? What were the consequences?

**Question:** We've learned that our sin can result in dreadful consequences, even suffering and death for ourselves and those we love. How is this a shield to keep us from being carried away and enticed by our own lusts?

**Provocative question:** Does forgiving a person necessarily relieve him or her from the consequences or penalty of a sin or crime?