

MAIN POINT

We will face temptation, but Jesus is the means of our victory.

INTRODUCTION

Is being tempted a sin? Does everyone experience temptations to the same things and in the same ways? Explain.

What are some of the most memorable stories of temptation in Scripture? How do these stories make you feel about the temptations you face?

The temptation to sin has been present since the fall of man, when Eve gave in to Satan's temptation in the garden. However, some of James's readers were blaming God for the temptations they experienced. James stated emphatically that temptations to evil do not arise from God. No pull to evil can touch Him because He has no vulnerability. We all face temptation, but we can be confident in Jesus as the means of our victory.

DISCUSSION

> READ JAMES 1:13-18.

Why do you think people try to blame God for the temptations they face, as James's readers evidently did?

The "blame game" goes back to the beginning of creation. Read Genesis 3:9-13. Who blamed who in this passage?

According to James in 1:13-15, who is the real culprit to blame for our sins?

Thinking back to this week's message, what is the chain of events when we act on our temptations?

What do verses 16-18 tell us about God? How can these truths encourage us as we fight against temptation?

When we give into the temptation to sin, how is our witness to the world impacted?

What are some specific ways you've seen God's power at work in your life when you've faced temptations? What role did prayer play in those situations?

Is there a redemptive purpose to temptation? How might God use temptation to help us grow in Christ?

What are some gifts God has provided that could help you resist temptation?

How can you support and encourage someone struggling with temptation? How might these same things help when you need an escape from your own temptations?

APPLICATION

What has helped you successfully resist temptation in the past? What habits can you develop that will further assist in resisting temptation?