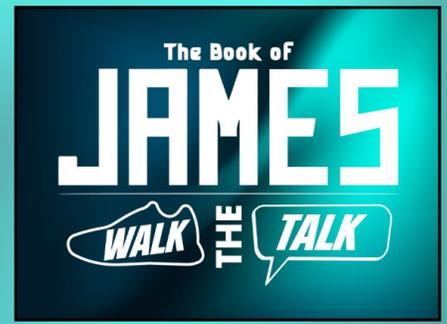


LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



LEADER REMINDER: Did you check out "This Week" on the Leader Tab of the RUSH App?

10.16.24 & 10.23.24 KEY TEXT: James 1: 13-18 "Beating Temptation"

Lesson Summary:

The Book of James teaches that **God is not the source of temptation**, and that we should not blame God, Satan or others for our temptations. Instead, James says that temptation comes from our own desires.

While there is nothing wrong with desiring worldly things (such as good grades and athletic abilities), a problem arises when we start to make that our focus and not God. It becomes an issue when we start to over-desire something. When you start to realize that you are falling into the trap of over-desiring something, there are three things to note about how to defeat temptation.

We can defeat temptation in our lives by trusting that God is not holding out. God knows what is best, and He wants good things for us, even if we cannot understand in the moment of our temptations. We can defeat temptation by going beyond saying no; we cannot rely on our own will power to consistently deny temptation. The third way we can defeat temptation in our lives is seeing Jesus (and what He did on the cross to save us) as more appealing and more beautiful than what we are being tempted by.

Main Points:

Truths about temptations:

1. They do **NOT** come from **GOD**
2. They come from **WITHIN YOU**
3. They start with **OVER-DESIRES**
4. They often **MULTIPLY**

How to beat temptation:

1. Trust that God's *not* **HOLDING** out on **YOU**
2. Don't settle for **JUST** saying **NO**
3. Show your heart something more **BEAUTIFUL**

Reflection question:

Jesus, I admit that these are the areas where temptation is winning out in my life:

Discussion Questions:

1. Did any of you, TONIGHT, FOR THE VERY 1ST TIME, asked Jesus to save you from your sins and lead your life?
2. What are your over-desires (something OR someone that you desire MORE than you desire God)?
(EX: popularity, grades, to excel at dance/sports/video games, happiness, comfort)
3. What is the hardest temptation struggle in your life right now?
 - a. On a scale of 1-10, how hard of a struggle is this for you? Why?
 - b. WHO or WHAT do you typically blame for this temptation struggle? (God? Satan? A friend?)- Why?
4. What excuses do you give when you fall into temptation?
 - a. Identify the truth to WHY you are tempted to do that particular sin.
*(EX: You were talking poorly about someone at school, even though you knew it would hurt their feelings. Your **excuse**: I couldn't help it, I didn't want to be mean, I was just telling the truth of what they did/said. **Truth**: You wanted to fit into the crowd and be cool/popular, even if it was at the expense of someone else's feelings/reputation.)*
5. Share a time when you felt God was holding out on you (not letting you have what you want).
 - a. Do you still feel this way?
 - b. Can you identify a gift/blessing that resulted during a time when you felt God was holding out on you and you DIDN'T get what you wanted?
(EX: You really wanted a lead role in your school's musical, but you didn't get it. In the moment you felt like God was holding out on you, you felt like you deserved the role. Now you can see that you were already busy with classes and adding a big role would have been too stressful and too hard to manage.)
6. Where are YOU saying no, or where SHOULD YOU be saying no to temptation?
 - a. Rather than relying totally on your will-power to defeat temptation, what is one more step you can take besides just saying no?

