

OF JAMES

James - Part 2
All I See is Cheese!
Pastor Dave Patterson
2.17.19

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.
~~Use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.~~

James 1:12 (AMP)

*Blessed [happy, spiritually prosperous, favored by God] is the man who is steadfast under trial and **perseveres when tempted**;*

Temptation = Greek, *peirasmos*. (a hunting term)

An enticement, an attempt, **a lure, a trap**, a test of a person's fidelity, integrity and virtue

James 1:12-18 (NLT)

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death.

So don't be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or

casts a shifting shadow. He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

THE FACTS

1. Temptation is not sin

- Hebrews 4:15-16

*Jesus, this High Priest of ours, understands our weaknesses, **for he faced all of the same testings and temptations we do**, yet he did not sin. So, let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*

- 1 John 2:16

*For the world offers only a **craving for physical pleasure**, a craving **for everything we see**, and **pride in our achievements and possessions**. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.*

- Romans 6:16

*Don't you realize that **you become the slave of whatever you choose** to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or **you can choose to obey God**, which leads to righteous living.*

- Romans 6:11-14

So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

*Do not let sin control the way you live; **do not give in to sinful desires**. Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.*

2. God never puts temptation on you

- James 1:13-14 (AMP)

*Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God" **for temptation does not originate from God**, but from our own flaws; for God cannot be tempted by what is evil, and He Himself tempts no one. But each one is tempted when he is dragged away, enticed and baited [to commit sin] by his own worldly desire (lust and passion).*

3. There is a 'temptation sequence' that ends in death or freedom (depending on our response)

- James 1:14-15 (AMP)

*But each one is tempted **when he is dragged away**, enticed and baited [to commit sin] by his own [worldly] desire (lust and passion).*

Then when the illicit desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin has run its course, it gives birth to death.

“With irresistible power, desire seizes mastery over the flesh.

It makes no difference whether it is sexual desire, or ambition, or vanity, or desire for revenge, or love of fame and power or greed or money. When we yield to temptation our joy in God is extinguished in us and we seek all our joy in the creature.

At this moment God is quite unreal to us, He loses all reality, and only desire for the creature is real. Satan does not here fill us with hatred for God, but with forgetfulness of God.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- James 1:15

*Then, after desire has **conceived**, it **gives birth** to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, **gives birth** to death.*

THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

1. Feed Your Spirit

- Galatians 5:16 (AMP)

But I say, walk habitually in the Holy Spirit [seek Him and be responsive to His guidance], and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature, which responds impulsively without regard for God.

2. “Play the movie forward” (step away from the cheese to gain perspective)

- Proverbs 7:6-8, 22-23

While I was at the window of my house,

looking through the curtain,

I saw some naive young men,

and one in particular who lacked common sense.

He was crossing the street near the house of an immoral woman,

strolling down the path by her house . . .

- Proverbs 7:6-8, 22-23

Right away he followed her home.

He followed her like a bull being led to the slaughter,

Like a fool caught in a trap,

that is, until an arrow punctures his liver,

Like a bird flying straight into a net.

He had no clue his life was at stake; everything was about to change.

3. **Walk with those who will call out what you can't see** "blind-spot buddies" (Amos 3:3)

4. **Look for the 'God-provided exit strategy'**

- 1 Corinthians 10:13

*The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. **He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand.** When you are tempted, **he will show you a way out** so that you can endure.*

5. **Know that you are called to something greater**

- James 1:18 (TPT)

*God was delighted to give us birth by the truth of his infallible Word so that we would **fulfill his chosen destiny for us** and become His prized possession!*

TALK IT THROUGH

Begin your time together by reading James 1:12-18.

1. Temptation comes to *everyone*! No one is exempt. Review the definition of "temptation" from above. Pastor Dave likened the bait of temptation to "cheese." What's a "cheese" the enemy has used in your life?
2. According to Hebrews 4:14-15, Jesus faced all the same temptations we do. Is this a hard concept for you to grasp? Discuss the significance of this truth in your personal walk with Jesus.
3. How can we recognize the traps, the lies?

4. Scripture reveals we can choose how we respond to temptation. If God says not to do something, He'll also give us the power to resist. Read Romans 6:11-14, 16. How has God come through for you in the heat of temptation? How have you experienced His grace to resist?
5. Read the account of the fall of man in Genesis 3:1-6. What was the lie the enemy fed Adam and Eve? Has Satan lied to you regarding God's character or His love/thoughts for you?
6. What is the sequence of temptation given in James 1:14-15? Pastor Dave said sin can be "cute" when it's first born, but full grown, it's a murderer. Discuss how vital it is to resist when temptation comes, or if we've given into it, to repent from the sin early.
7. Discuss the 5 steps on the Road to Freedom? Which one these 5 steps is most needed in your own life right now?