Lesson 19 James 1:13-18

How To Handle Temptation

1. What is the distinction between testing on the outside and temptation on the inside?

2. What should we understand if we are to overcome temptation?

3. *Challenge Question:* A. What are the four stages of the process of sin?

 B. How are these four stages depicted in Genesis 3? (See back page

4. If God does not tempt us to sin, what does draw us into sin?

5. What difference is there between a "testing from God" and a temptation (vs. 13)?

13 No one experiencing temptation should say, “I am being tempted by God”; for God is not subject to temptation to evil, and he himself tempts no one.

6. Give an illustration of the process described in vs. 14 and vs. 15.

14 Rather, each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

15 Then desire conceives and brings forth sin, and when sin reaches maturity it gives birth to death.

7. How is this (vs. 14, 15) related to the gifts from God (vs. 16-18)?

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers:

17 all good giving and every perfect gift\* is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change.

18 He willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

8. God is the ultimate example of goodness and dependability (vs. 16-18). How is this a source of joy and hope for you?

9. Think of trials and temptations you are currently facing. How can this passage encourage you to depend on God?

Genesis 3

 **1 Now the snake was the most cunning\* of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He asked the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden’?”**

 **2 The woman answered the snake: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;**

 **3 it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, or else you will die.’”**

 **4 But the snake said to the woman: “You certainly will not die!**

 **5God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, who know\* good and evil.”**

 **6 The woman saw that the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eyes, and the tree was desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.c**

 **7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.**

 **8 When they heard the sound of the LORD God walking about in the garden at the breezy time of the day,\* the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.**

 **9 The LORD God then called to the man and asked him: Where are you?**

**10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.”**

**11 Then God asked: Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?**

**12 The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.”**

**13 The LORD God then asked the woman: What is this you have done? The woman answered, “The snake tricked me, so I ate it.”**

**14 Then the LORD God said to the snake: Because you have done this, cursed are you among all the animals, tame or wild; On your belly you shall crawl, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.**

**15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; They will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel.**

**16 To the woman he said: I will intensify your toil in childbearing; in pain\* you shall bring forth children. Yet your urge shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.**

**17 To the man he said: Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, You shall not eat from it, Cursed is the ground\* because of you! In toil you shall eat its yield all the days of your life.**

**18 Thorns and thistles it shall bear for you, and you shall eat the grass of the field.**

**19 By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, Until you return to the ground, from which you were taken; For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

**20 The man gave his wife the name “Eve,” because she was the mother of all the living.**

**21 The LORD God made for the man and his wife garments of skin, with which he clothed them.**

**22 Then the LORD God said: See! The man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil! Now, what if he also reaches out his hand to take fruit from the tree of life, and eats of it and lives forever?**

**23 The LORD God therefore banished him from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he had been taken.**

**24 He expelled the man, stationing the cherubim and the fiery revolving sword east of the garden of Eden, to guard the way to the tree of life.**