



O BROTHER

WISDOM FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES

SESSION 1 - TEMPTATION

SERIES BIG IDEA

James, the half brother of Jesus, shares wisdom on how to overcome challenges that can trip us up as Christ-followers and keep us from growing to maturity.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

When it comes to temptation, it's not an "if" but a "when," and the key to maturity is how we respond.

SCRIPTURE

James 1:13-18

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

Take this time to ease your group into talking, both by sharing something about their lives, but also by introducing the big idea via the opening thought. These are just suggestions though, so use your own best instincts about how to best do this in your groups.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Since we're walking through the book of James – take time to linger through the passage together. It would be good to highlight that God isn't the source of the temptations in our life, just as God isn't the source of bad things in our lives. Yet be sensitive to the fact that could be a new idea, or even a startling idea, for some group members.

LIFE APPLICATION

These questions are designed to bring everything back down into the practical realm of life. What is self-control, how are we tempted, where/when are we tempted, and finally what can we as a group do to help each other when temptation comes.

It could be helpful to highlight that everyone experiences temptation – refer back to the Big Idea – that it's a matter of when, not if. It might be helpful to have two people read the C.S. Lewis quote out loud, sometimes hearing it in different voices can shake new insights loose. Above all, take your time and give your group the chance to think through the questions.

CHALLENGE

Open up a group prayer time by having everyone share something they need help resisting (be as vague as you need to be). Then spend time in prayer with your group praying for everyone's specific temptations. Pick one person to check in on their temptation journey – be a source of encouragement for them! Also, commit this week to signing up for and reading the Big Idea Bible Reading plan for our *O Brother* series.