

Open in prayer. Read Scripture out loud together. Go through STAR.

James 1:12-18

¹² 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.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵ These *desires give birth* to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it *gives birth* to death.

¹⁶ So don’t be misled, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ He chose to *give birth* to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

As You Read: (STAR)

Stop – What is at the front of your thoughts today, what is taking your attention? In a prayer of surrender give those things to God.

Take a Breath – Invite the Holy Spirit to come and awaken you to God’s voice. In a prayer of invitation ask Him to come and bring revelation to you.

Accept and Connect to Jesus – reread the Scripture text silently and begin looking at your day or your circumstances through the text and ask yourself how Jesus applied these verses to the life he lived on earth. (any examples?)

Respond – is God asking you to respond in specific way? Feel free to share and ask for prayer in this area.

(Extra devotional questions on the back page)

- 1) Who is James writing too? Vs 1
 - a) What is the main point of James writing this letter them? Vs 2-3

- 2) In vs 3 James writes about testing. What did he say about it and how would you define “testing”?
 - a) What has testing looked like in your life? (Past/present)

- 3) What are the two things in vs 12 that James says people will be blessed for patiently enduring?

- 4) How is temptation different then testing? And how would you define temptation?
 - a) Does God tempt us? Vs 13

 - b) According to James, where does temptation come from? Vs 14-15

 - c) There is no sin in being tempted, it’s what we do with it that leads to sin. What is the three step progression that James has laid out from vs 14-15.

 - d) Read Galatians 5:16-21, Paul gives a more detailed description of the battle between what our sinful nature desires and the desires the Spirit of Christ gives us. When we are not directed by the Holy Spirit we follow the desires of our sinful nature – if you read that list do you see any desires from the list in vs 19-21 in your life? If so what does Paul say are the consequences if we permit those desires to direct our lives?

 - e) Now read Galatians 5:22-23, what kind of desires does the Holy Spirit produce in us when we allow His Spirit to direct us? Do you see the Holy Spirit producing this kind of fruit in your life? Why or why not?

- 5) In James 1:17 James says that God only gives us what kind of a gift? So would it make sense that he would tempt us?

- 6) The word “birth” shows up three times. What is the difference between the two times in vs 15 and the one in vs 18?

- 7) Lastly, is there anything you need to apply to your life from this scripture?