

## Small Group Questions

**Collide:**

**10/16/11**

### Getting Started...

Name the dessert that is most "tempting" to you:

### Going Deeper...

*James 1:13-18 Trials and Temptation:*

James moves from perseverance under trial (vs 12) to not blaming God for our temptations (vs 13), can you explain the connection between trials, temptations, the role of sin, and why we might blame God?

A popular Christian author penned these words: "What makes an event either a trial or a temptation for you is your response to it." Do you agree or disagree? Working from your prior answer: can you explain why?

Sinful responses to trials come in many forms. Can you think of ways you have succumbed to some temptation and sinned in response to a trial?

Most Christians don't overtly blame God for their sinful choices, or for falling into temptation. Usually it is more subtle. For instance; have you ever excused yourself from a sin or minimized a sinful response to a trial because you were going through something difficult? Have you ever decided you deserved to indulge yourself in some fashion because of some trial you were going through?

James very carefully outlines the process of temptation and sin. How would you put the process in your own words and use it to strengthen yourself or a friend during the times of temptation?

Is it interesting that James tells us that the desires we are tempted by come from within and not from God, Satan or the world? What then would you say their roles are in process of temptation and sin?

## Collide: Truth meets Temptation

Pastor Ben Wangler

10/16/11

*When temptation is mishandled it becomes deadly!*

Read Genesis 3, Job 2:1-10, and Luke 4:1-13

It is always good to search the scriptures to make sure your thoughts are validated in multiple places. What more can you learn about God and Satan's role in temptation through the stories of Adam and Eve, Job, and the temptation of Jesus in the desert?

### **Temptation 101:**

Temptation is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(James 1:13)

Temptation \_\_\_\_\_ from God.  
(James 1:13)

What more can you learn about temptation in general, and how to fight it from the story of the temptation of Jesus in the desert?

### **Temptation 201:**

Temptation will draw me toward an \_\_\_\_\_ way to address a \_\_\_\_\_ desire!

### **Take it home...**

Being Doers of the Word:

Many of the desires we have aren't overly sinful in and of themselves, they become sinful when we act on them in the wrong way, at the wrong time, or with the wrong motives (we are dragged/carried away and enticed vs 14). For instance sexual desires are not inherently sinful, but if they are satisfied in the wrong way or at the wrong time, sin is born. Take a day and write down the impulse of desire behind everything you do, or at the end of the day write down everything you did and consider what the desires were behind what you did and how you did it. What did you learn?

Take it a step further and do the same thing with everything you say. When you think back on all that you said consider these verses: James 1:26, James 3:1-12, and Matt 12:36-37.

### **Temptation 301:**

*What those who are handling temptation have learned:*

Temptation never \_\_\_\_\_ what it promises.

Spiritual growth is a \_\_\_\_\_.

God has a \_\_\_\_\_ for every desire.