

2. ENDURING TEMPTATION

REFLECTION

Begin your study by sharing thoughts on this question.

1. In what ways have you received good gifts from God?

BIBLE READING

Read James 1:12–18 from the NCV or the NKJV.

NCV

¹²When people are tempted and still continue strong, they should be happy. After they have proved their faith, God will reward them with life forever. God promised this to all those who love him.

¹³When people are tempted, they should not say, "God is tempting me." Evil cannot tempt God, and God himself does not tempt anyone. ¹⁴But people are tempted when their own evil desire leads them away and traps them. ¹⁵This desire leads to sin, and then the sin grows and brings death.

¹⁶My dear brothers and sisters, do not be fooled about this. ¹⁷Every good action and every perfect gift is from God. These good gifts come down from the Creator of the sun, moon, and stars, who does not change like their shifting shadows. ¹⁸God decided to give us life through the word of truth so we might be the most important of all the things he made.

NKJV

¹²Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. ¹⁵Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

¹⁶Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

DISCOVERY

Explore the Bible reading by discussing these questions.

2. How can we remain strong to resist temptation?
3. How does God reward faithful people?
4. Who do some people blame as the source of temptation? Why?
5. Why are we tempted?
6. List the results of continually giving in to sin.
7. How has the testimony of others helped you in your struggle against sin?
8. How can you encourage others to resist temptation?

PRAYER

Father, when we confront temptation, we pray that you would give us strength to resist evil. Thank you for your promise that if we do what is right, eventually truth, justice, and goodness will prevail.

JOURNALING

Take a few moments to record your personal insights from this lesson.

How has God set me free from sin and temptation?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

9. What temptations are most difficult for you to resist?
10. How can you resist those temptations?

11. List how you can depend more on God for the strength to overcome sin.

For more Bible passages on temptation, see Matthew 6:13; 26:41; Luke 4:1, 2; Romans 8:5–8; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 6:11–13; Hebrews 4:15, 16.