



CONVERSATION STARTER

What's something you once thought would make life better—but later realized actually made things more complicated or harder?

DEEPER

NOTE: This would be a good time to reflect on how group members are doing in their memorization of James 1 if you've accepted the challenge together.

Read James 1:12-15

1. James tells us that our desires can lead us into sin, whether they are good, neutral, or bad. How so? How have you seen this practically play out in your own life?
2. James refuses to let us blame God for temptation. Why do you think it's so difficult for us to accept responsibility for temptation?
3. James says God neither tempts us nor can be tempted by evil. How does believing that God is both sovereign and never the source of temptation change the way you interpret difficult seasons in your life?
4. Both Job and Abraham endured tests that revealed trust and integrity before God. What do these stories teach us about the difference between trusting God's character and understanding God's plan? Why does God often seem to withhold the "why"?
5. How do we usually define success in a difficult season—and how is that different from James's definition of "standing the test"?
6. How does knowing that Jesus already earned God's approval for you change the way you approach temptation?

7. What is one desire (good, neutral, or bad) that you need to consciously place under God's authority this week? What would steadfastness look like in that specific area?

NOTES

GROUP PRAYER

Individually, take a moment to quietly ask the Lord to show you one desire that has been luring and enticing you lately. Name it before the Lord. (1-2 minutes)

Now, ask God for grace to submit that desire to him, and to trust him with it. And pray that God would give you steadfastness in that trial or temptation. (1-2 minutes)

Finally, have someone in the group (not the leader) close your time with a final word of prayer.