



Community Bible Church
Pastor Bob DuPar
February 4, 2018

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Temptation

James 1:13-16

3 The Mark of Maturity

Background & Introduction:

1 A Helpful Principle

“But let the brother of humble circumstances glory in his high position; and the rich man glory in his humiliation...” James 1:9

2 Satan’s Tactic

Application:



Community Bible Church
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Week of February 4, 2018

Go Deep Study Guide

Temptation

James 1:13-16

Getting Started

What did you find most helpful from this week's sermon? Was anything confusing? Is there anything that needs clarification? Discuss as a group.

If you haven't heard the sermon yet, you can access it at: www.cbcventura.org

Going Deeper

Re-read James 1:13-26

How do you think our passage relates to the verses that precede it? That follow it?

What's the difference between *temptation* and *testing*? What's the source of each? What's the intention/motivation behind each? Explain

Drawing from the sermon illustration, what's a *floating pumpkin*? What are some *floating pumpkins* that our world has come to accept? Are there any that you have tolerated? Discuss the danger of this

How does the fact that God can't be tempted by evil translate to the principle that He never tempts us? How is this comforting? How does this truth change the way that we experience trials/testings/temptations?

Read Genesis 22:1-2 & Judges 2:21-22 and discuss as a group. How can knowing God's intentions be a source of comfort and encouragement to us as we go through times of testing?

Someone has said, "*Convictions are born in times of testing. You can't have convictions unless they've been tested.*" Do you agree/disagree? Why?

-2-

Give examples of some of the inevitable temptations that accompany times of testing and trial. How are these examples of Satan hijacking divinely appointed experiences that God has intended for our good? How is this helpful to know as we process these tough times?

How is the Old Testament book of Job a good example of temptations accompanying trials & Satan attempting to thwart God's blessings?

How does Satan isolate us, alienate us from community, shame us? How does this make us vulnerable and weak? What's the solution? Relate your answers to the wisdom found in James 1:14.

Again, drawing from the sermon illustration, have you ever caught a tuna fish that was bigger than you could handle? What happened? How can good things sometimes become bad or destructive?

How can we recognize and measure Christian maturity? The absence of trials in our life? Or, how we handle and respond to these trials? Discuss

What are some ways that we can take responsibility for **not** contributing to trials and temptations?

Talk about the following stages of temptation and sin: *Denial, Minimization, Normalization, Rationalization/Justification, Celebration & Death*. Discuss the dangers and challenges at each stage.

Application

Take your favorite implication/application from the sermon this week and personalize it. What are some specific ways that you can make this truth real in your life this week?

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer thanking God for His Word and what you've learned.

What are some of the prayer needs of your group, your family, your friends?

