

CONSIDER IT ALL JOY

CENTRAL TRUTH

Though believers will face difficult times and temptations, God is faithful to grow our faith.

KEY QUESTION

↑ What does James want us to understand about God as it relates to temptation?

God is not the source of temptation; rather, it's our own evil desires. These are desires, or cravings, for things that do not honor the Lord. James challenges us to look inward when thinking about the source of temptation, not upward. By the Spirit's power, we must resist giving into temptation and instead trust in the Lord.

KEEP IN MIND

- It's key for students to understand that James's encouragement is not to force a posture of happiness when difficult situations arise. We can find joy in the fact that God uses everything we go through to shape us into people who reflect the character of Jesus.
- Come prepared to small group with helpful insights that have helped you in combatting temptation, whatever it may be. At a foundational level, students need to be reminded of God's power to help them and their identity in Christ as loved children within His family.

APPLICATION

- How can we learn to naturally run to Jesus when suffering and difficult moments arise?

THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: God is faithful and we can trust Him to use our suffering to shape us into the image of Christ.

FOR THE LEADER: Remind students that gospel-centered joy does not mean that we have to pretend everything is okay. We can be honest about what we're going through while trusting the Lord.

7 ARROWS

- ↻ What does this passage say?
- ↑ What does this passage tell us about God?
- ← What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- ↔ How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
- ↓ What does this passage tell us about the human heart?
- ↻ How does this passage prompt me to pray?
- What does this passage demand of me?