

## BAD NEWS, GOOD NEWS

### Book of James Study Program



#### BACKGROUND:

As long as we live in this world, Christ-followers will be subjected to temptation. By grace, we have been saved by God, called by God, and equipped by God to resist these temptations, to remember our identity in Christ, and to call on Him for the strength to overcome. James breaks down the inner workings of temptation, challenges us all to an obedient life, and reminds us of the unending goodness of God in providing all that we need to follow Him.

#### DAY 1: READ JAMES 1:13-15

1. What does James mean by the word “desire”?
2. What desires do you have that do not honor God?
3. How can you stop these desires from becoming full-blown sin?
4. What are the areas of your life that God is revealing to you that need to be fully submitted to Him? Make a list of those things and commit them to prayer.

Pray: Lord, I desire to live a life pleasing to you. Help me to align my thoughts and deeds with your Word. Show me any place that I am falling short, and give me the courage to make the necessary changes. Amen.

## DAY 2: READ JAMES 1:16-18

1. Why do you think James uses such a stark contrast comparing sin and death and truth and life?
2. How have you seen God's Word be constant and consistent in your life?
3. What does it mean for us to be the "first fruits" of God's creatures?
4. What responsibility do we have regarding sin, and truth, in our lives and our churches?

Pray: Father, help me to remember at all times that your Word is constant and sure. Help me to always choose truth over the lies of the enemy. Teach me to submit my will to yours in all areas of my life. Amen.

## DAY 3: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:6-15

1. How easy do you find it to make excuses for sinning? (e.g. it was just a "white lie", no one will ever know, etc.)
2. What are the idols in your life? Remember that an idol is anything that takes a higher place in your life than God.
3. Who do you have in your life that you allow to hold you accountable when you are tempted? If you don't have someone, seek out a trusted friend.
4. What does it mean to "put Christ to the test" (verse 9)? How are you doing that in your life?

Pray: Father, help me to recognize those temptations that threaten to overtake me. Teach me how to flee temptation. Give me the courage to share those deep thoughts with someone who can help me resist temptation. Amen.

## DAY 4: COLOSSIANS 1:3-14

1. How long has it been since you spent time thanking God for the fact that He has forgiven your sins? What does that gift mean to you?
2. Who, in your life, is praying for you to “be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding” (verse 9)? If you do not have someone praying specifically for you, be bold and approach someone you know, asking them to pray for you on a regular basis.
3. For whom should you praying to “be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding” (verse 9)?
4. Read verses 13 and 14 again. What does it mean to you to be “delivered” from the domain of darkness?

Pray: Father, please make me a person filled with gratitude for all you have done for me. Help me never to take for granted your gift of deliverance and forgiveness. Teach me how to be genuinely grateful every day of my life. Amen.