

### Introduction:

**Resilient:** the ability to withstand or recover from a difficult situation.

### It's tempting:

What do I do when temptation knocks?

How do I keep a “backslide” from becoming a “landslide”?

### How to respond to temptation:

1. Recognize the \_\_\_\_\_ of temptation.

*<sup>13</sup> When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup> but each person is tempted when they are **dragged away** by their own evil desire and **enticed**.*

James 1:13-14 (NIV)

### **About temptation:**

- Temptation is \_\_\_\_\_ for your desires.
- Temptation is designed to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Temptation \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ like the real thing.
- Temptation always comes with \_\_\_\_\_.

### **We're most vulnerable when we're:**

- Tired – emotionally, physically, spiritually
- Alone or isolated – we need community
- Stressed – numbing vs. nourishing

**2. Address the \_\_\_\_\_ of temptation.**

*Then, after desire has been conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.*

James 1:15 (NIV)

**Two critical questions:**

- What does this sin, full-grown, look like?
- What are the ultimate consequences?

**3. Identify the \_\_\_\_\_ and bring it into the \_\_\_\_\_.**

*<sup>16</sup> Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

James 1:16-17 (NIV)

**The root lie:** it's always an attack on the character of God, namely, His goodness  
(God is holding out on me)

**The character of God:**

- God cannot be tempted (He is morally pure)
- God doesn't tempt anyone
- God is the giver of every good and perfect gift
- God doesn't change, He's consistent
- God gives us new life

**Nothing good grows in the dark**

*Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed...*

James 5:16a (NIV)

- Is there anything in your life that you wouldn't want your **spouse, parents, friends, pastor** to find out about?

**No temptation** has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will **not** let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)

**4. Remember what is \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus.**

*He chose to give us birth through the Word of truth, that we might be a kind of first-fruits of all He created.*

James 1:18 (NIV)

**You have a spiritual enemy who wants you to live in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,*

Romans 8:1 (NIV)

"I never saw those heights and depths in grace, and love, and mercy, as I saw after this temptation: **great sins draw out great grace**; and where guilt is most terrible and fierce, there the mercy of God in Christ, when showed to the soul, appears most high and mighty."

John Bunyan

“The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope.”

Tim Keller

### Discussion Questions:

1. What sin in your life do you need to take responsibility for? What does this sin look like “fully grown?”
2. Why is it so important to understand the character of God?
3. When temptation knocks at your door, what practical steps will you take to combat it?
4. In what areas of your life has the enemy held you captive to the bonds of guilt and shame? Take a moment to pray and ask the Lord to free you from these lies with His truth.