



JAMES 1:12-19a

REJECT FALSEHOOD & KNOW THE TRUTH

BEGIN BY READING JAMES 1:12-19a TOGETHER:

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴ But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵ Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers

NOTE: *After you read the passage together, pray, and then allow for a few minutes of silence so that you and your students can read over the passage again and start to think about it. This may feel awkward at first, but it's vital to allow for some reflection time before diving into the questions.*

When you're ready, begin the discussion by going through the following questions:

CONTEXT QUESTIONS

1. What key ideas did James talk about in 1:1-11?

NOTE: *This is an opportunity to briefly review the ideas you discussed last week in James 1:1-11.*

2. How does vs. 12 summarize what came before in vs. 1-11?

NOTE: *James 1:12 serves as a key transition where James summarizes the first 11 verses of chapter 1 and then introduces the next section where he expands on the themes of trials, temptations,*

and new life given by God.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

NOTE: As you go through these questions, give your students time and silence to really look at the text to see what God is revealing to them personally. Be patient with them as they seek to flesh out what they are seeing in God's Word.

- 1. What are some metaphors or images that strike you as you read this passage?**
- 2. What are some questions that come to mind as you read this passage?**

RESPONSE QUESTIONS

- 1. Verse 16 says, "Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers." What kind of falsehoods does James call us to reject in vs. 13-15?**

NOTE: The repeated use of the phrase "my beloved brothers" in verses 16 and 19 clue us in to James' structure in this section. His call to not be deceived in vs. 16 punctuates the truth of verses 13-15. Likewise his call to "know this" in verse 19 punctuates the truths of verses 17-18.

With this in mind help your students look at verses 13-15 to see what false ideas about temptation James is rejecting. Specifically James is calling his readers to see that while God does test our faith with various trials that are meant to grow us to maturity, God is never the author of temptation or sin. It is our own sinful desires that lure us into temptation and lead to sin and spiritual death.

- 2. Verse 19 says, "Know this, my beloved brothers." What truths does James call us to know and remember in vs. 17-18?**

NOTE: If temptation, sin, and death are the result of our fallen desires, then salvation and new life are gifts from our unchanging and good God. In verses 17-18 James moves from pointing to falsehoods we should reject (vs. 13-15) to reminding us of truths we should know (vs. 19). Here James is calling us to "know" and hold fast to unchanging truths about the unchanging grandness and goodness of our heavenly Father, who has brought us forth into new birth by the "word of truth" - the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

CHRIST CONNECTION

NOTE: *Verses 14-15 paint a bleak picture of the human condition, in which our fallen desires lead us into temptation, sin, and ultimately death. But the grace of God in verses 17-18 is that even though we are fallen people, God “willed” that we should be “brought forth by the word of truth.” The entire Bible is the true story of how God has carried out His will to bring forth spiritually dead people into new life through faith in Christ, who is the very Word of God (John 1:1-4; see also Ephesians 1:3-10 and 2:1-10 for more on this idea).*

The two response questions above can lead to a helpful conversation about how spiritually dead people can reject falsehood and sin, and know the truth of the new life that comes through faith in Christ.