Week of May 2, 2021

Discussion Questions:

1. Growing up, what were you taught by parents or the church about temptation? Was it helpful to you? How may that have been different from this definition? *"Temptation is that urge to do something you know isn't best for you to do."*

2. Read James 1:13-15. If God is not part of temptation, how does that give you a different mindset of your own responsibility? What ways have you found to identify your own evil desires? Are there some that you regularly struggle with?

3. Read James 1:16-17. How does the belief that every good and perfect gift comes from God, change your perspective on temptation?

4. Matt said "A desire is a <u>thought</u> attached to an <u>emotion</u>." How have you seen temptation follow this pattern in your life? What are some ways we can stop the thought from attaching to an emotion?

5. Imagine what would happen if we focused on gratitude for God's good gifts rather than seeing ourselves as a victim of temptations? Share with the group some of the good gifts God has blessed you with.

6. What is God saying to you about temptation in your life? How can the relationships in this group strengthen your faith? How could being available relationally to each other help the next time you face temptation?

Moving Forward
Every day pause and remember, "I have a good and perfect Father who wants to give me good and perfect gifts and has a good and perfect plan for my life if I'll simply trust Him with it. I'm not going to doubt His goodness."

James 1:13-17
When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. 15Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

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