

The Book of James
James 1:9-18
T.A.G. Resource

“Do not be deceived” (James 1:16). Deception is a common part of life. Sometimes, that deception is playful—peekaboo with a baby, a play action pass in a football game, the set up of a joke. Other times, that deception is destructive—a lie, a betrayal, ungodly teaching. Wisdom helps us avoid the pitfalls of deception. Read James 1:9-18 and pray to Yahweh for wisdom and guidance.

Topic: The world says money fixes our problems, blames God for difficulties, and claims that good things come from worldly sources.

- How does the gospel shift the way we define personal worth compared to how the world defines it (in terms of status, career, or bank accounts)?
- What is the difference between simply surviving a difficult season and spiritually enduring it with faith?
- How are we often tempted to blame God, our circumstances, or other people for our own sinful choices?

Association:

- In what ways might you be relying on material security or worldly success rather than your identity in Christ?
- What is a trial you are currently enduring, and how does keeping the promise of the "crown of life" in mind change your perspective on that hardship? (Read 1:12)
- James uses fishing and hunting metaphors (“drawn away” and “enticed”) to describe desire. What “bait” does the world or enemy most frequently use to hook you?
- Verse 17 calls God the unchanging “Father of lights.” How does God’s absolute consistency help you trust Him when your life or feelings feel completely unstable?
- James notes that every good and perfect gift comes from God. What are three specific “good gifts” in your life right now that you need to pause and thank Him for?

Guidance:

- If you are currently facing financial hardship or low social status, how can remembering your “exaltation in Christ” bring you comfort and dignity?
- Look at the progression in verses 14–15 (Desire → Sin → Death). What is one practical step you can take to interrupt that cycle at the desire stage before it leads to sin?
- God brought us forth by the “word of truth” to be a “kind of firstfruits.” How should living as God’s “firstfruits” change the way you interact with your family, workplace, or community this week?

Pray with and for each other.

Cross-References to Consider: Isaiah 40:6–8, Luke 1:52–53, 1 Timothy 6:17, 1 Corinthians 9:25, Revelation 2:10, 2 Timothy 4:8, Genesis 3:12–13, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Romans 6:23, Malachi 3:6, John 1:12–13, 1 Peter 1:23.