

Reedy Fork Baptist Church

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: "Who Will You Blame?"

SCRIPTURE: James 1:13-18 NIV

¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

I. Key Words:

- Blame
- Tempt
- Test
- Deception

II. People, Places, & Times:

III. Background:

James 1:13–18 explains that God does not cause temptation; instead, temptation comes from human desires, leads to sin and death, and contrasts sharply with God, who gives only good gifts.

James wrote to give practical moral guidance, urging believers to prove their faith through good deeds, patience in suffering, and control of the tongue rather than just speaking about belief.

IV. In Depth:

1. Lesson Emphasis: 1. God IS Not Responsible for Evil (vv.13-14)

- A. People are naturally inclined to shift the blame for their shortcomings to someone and God always seems available.**
- B. God is completely free from sin.**

2. Lesson Emphasis: Sin Begins In the Human Heart. (vv.15-16)

- A. James declares in verses 14 and 15 that temptation to evil comes from elements that have their roots in the human heart.**
- B. James makes no reference to Satan in his discussion of temptation.**
- C. Sin is ours**

3. Lesson Emphasis: God is the Source of All Good (vv.17-18)

- A. James's proposition is that God is the source of all good.**
- B. God in contrast to those things that seem to be most stable, is unchanging and unchangeable.**

V. Make It Happen

-What is sin?

-Who is responsible for our sins?

-Where does sin and evil begin?

-Who is the source of all good?

-How do maintain our holiness?

VI. Follow the Spirit:

What will you do as a result of this lesson?
