

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

James 1:12–15

1. Temptation—

2. Temptation—

3. Temptation—

God's resources for overcoming temptation:

His . . .

His . . .

His . . .

His . . .

His . . .

His . . .

For the Family

Read Genesis 3:1–13

Explain that God created Adam and Eve and put them in an amazing garden. They could do anything they wanted, except to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. One day the serpent tempted Eve to eat from the tree. He lied to her about what would happen if she ate from it. The tree looked really good to her, and she took some fruit and ate it. She also gave some to Adam and he ate some. As soon as they had eaten, they knew it was wrong and they hid from God. When God came looking for them, he knew that they had disobeyed him.

Explain how Adam and Eve reacted when God confronted them with their disobedience. Adam blamed Eve: “The woman you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree...” Then Eve blamed the serpent: “The serpent deceived me ...”

Talk together about how when we get in trouble, sometimes we make excuses or blame others. (Give some examples of each.) But God expects us to take responsibility for our choices and actions.

Read together James 1:12–15

Explain that James tells us we can't blame God when we are tempted to make a bad choice. God doesn't tempt people. Instead, James says, we are tempted because of our own desires. Just like Adam and Eve, something can look good, even though it is wrong. We then have to make a choice. Be obedient, or do what we want.

The right choices lead to blessing and reward. The wrong choices lead to trouble and punishment.

When we get in trouble, we shouldn't make excuses or blame others. We need to own up to our own choices, and accept the consequences. Then we can ask God to forgive us.

Pray together. Tell God you will not make excuses or blame others when you get into trouble. Thank him for loving you enough to forgive you for any bad choices you have made.