

LIFE GROUP GUIDE
WEEK of March 11-18

PREPARE:

Before your group arrives, make sure you take a few minutes to review the Life Group video and the Life Group Guide.

- It will help you be prepared for Life Group conversations ahead of time.
- Test your video display option to make sure it is working before your Life Group members arrive.

WELCOME:

Take a few minutes to welcome Life Group members. You might want to talk for a couple of minutes to see how people are enjoying the sunny and warm days.

VIDEO:

Watch the video together

SCRIPTURE:

Read **James 1:13-18** together.

James 1: ¹³When 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

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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.

REFLECT

Give a few minutes after reading the passage together for your group to think about what these verses are trying to teach us.

QUESTION:

Have you ever felt like you were being tempted by God? Can you describe what that felt like?

What do you think is the difference between being tested and tempted?

Do you think God tests us? Why?

OBSERVATION:

God doesn't limit His good gifts to those who already believe in Him. All good gifts have their genesis in Him.

QUESTION:

How do you feel about God sharing good things with those who do not yet believe in Him?

What do you think this reveals about His generosity?

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OBSERVATION:

Every good gift **comes from** God AND also **reveals something about** God.

Example: The moon does not produce its own light, but simply reflects the light of the sun. The sun is always shining.

The things we enjoy do not produce their own light. They are not the source of our enjoyment. They reflect something about our Creator.

The things that make us feel alive reflect the author of Life.

QUESTION:

What kind of things in your life that help you to feel loved and accepted?

What kind of things in your life stir your heart and inspire adventure?

What do you think this reveals about God, who is the source of these gifts?

OBSERVATION:

Every good gift **comes from** God. Every good gift **reveals something about** God. **No good gift can replace God.**

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When we really enjoy something we can assume that thing or that person is the source of our joy. We can mistakenly assume that if we own that thing we will have that same feeling all the time.

QUESTION:

If we think something or someone is the source of our joy, how are we likely to treat them? What will we do to keep them in our lives?

If we think something or someone is the source of our joy, how do you think we will might treat someone who threatens to take it from us?

QUESTION:

How can you tell if something is not just something you enjoy, but has become the source of your joy? What can you do about that?

OBSERVATION:

Good gifts are from God but good gifts make lousy gods.

Things will fade, grow old and break down. If those things or people have replaced God in our lives, we will despise them when they fail to meet our expectations.

When this happens, the problem is not God. The problem is not in the things we enjoyed. The problem is in us.

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QUESTION:

Have you ever seen someone who became angry when they lost something they enjoyed in their life? What do you think that anger reveals?

Have you ever seen someone become angry with God because they lost something or someone they enjoyed in their lives?

QUESTION:

Are there other emotions we experience that might reveal we have turned a good thing into a god thing? What do you think some of those emotions are?

QUESTION:

Have you noticed how difficult it is to recreate a special moment or a powerful emotion? When that happens do you fear that someone or something might be letting you down?

QUESTION:

What are some ways you could return thanks to God when you are enjoying one of His gifts?

OBSERVATION:

When struggling with temptation, we often attempt to increase our will power. Maybe a better strategy would be to focus on the good things God has already brought into our lives. Gratitude is a powerful antidote to temptation.

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QUESTION:

Do you have a strategy to regularly recognize and express thanks to God for the good things He has brought into your life? Would you be willing to share with the group how you do that?

PRAYER:

Encourage group members to identify something that is good in their life and take turns expressing thankfulness to God for them.