



### **ICE BREAKERS:**

- How many love to fish?
- What was the biggest fish you ever caught...no big fish stories that got away?
- What kind of bait did you use?
- Do you use the same bait for different fish?

### **READ & EXAMINE**

#### **Read James 1:13-16**

- What is temptation?
- Is temptation sin?

Webster defines tempt this way: “to entice to do wrong by promise of pleasure or gain.” Adding to this basic understanding, James presents us with facts that we must all understand before we can even begin to deal with the problem.

#### **Read James 1:13**

- Does God tempt?
- Why is it important that we NOT blame our temptation on God?
- Can God be tempted?

**FACT—God cannot be tempted, nor does He tempt.**

#### **Read Genesis 2:17**

- Is this a testing of faith or temptation?

#### **Read Genesis 3:2-5**

- Is this a testing or temptation?

#### **Read Hebrews 4:15**

- What does this say about Jesus and us?

**FACT—All are tempted.**

#### **Read James 1:14-15**

Verses 14-15 describe something we might call the “life cycle of desire.”

- What are the stages?
- Where does temptation come from?

We can be hooked by temptation like a fish by a worm because we’re hungry...hungry for the fulfillment of our physical and spiritual needs. God promises to provide for these needs, but Satan also knows about our hungers. He cannot force us to eat, he is skilled at what he does...knowing what bait to use for each of us. Knowing when, where, and how to drop bait in front of us that might lure us away from God.

- What does the word “enticed” mean?
  - “lured by bait”, “hooked on”

“Enticed” is a fishing term. In order to pull that fish out from its comfortable hiding place, we’ve got to find a bait that will interest it, one that it can’t resist. Once that bait is dropped and the fish sees it, it’s as good as caught.

- What are some things that “lure” us in?
- Why do these “hook” us?
- When does in occur?

When we allow temptation to join the sinful desires of our minds and it gives birth to sin.

- How can we combat our desires that lead to sin and death?

#### **Read Hebrews 4:15**

- Did Jesus sin?
- What are some of the biggest temptations people face today? Are all people tempted?