

## THE PERFECT GIFT FROM HEAVEN

### *James 1:13-18*

#### **Starting point:**

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website, [www.vcfj.org](http://www.vcfj.org) and listen to it BEFORE YOU START this small group lesson. It will allow you take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on your journey to greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

#### Overview

- What has been the toughest part of finding time each week to discuss the questions?
- What has been the easiest part of finding time each week to discuss the questions?
- Are there ways our enemy is making you and/or your family stumble?
- Read *Ephesians 6:10-17*. What are the verses telling you that you have to do?
- What is your personal plan to combat the enemy?
- What can be learned from *Ephesians Chapters 4-6*?
- What is the roll of the husband and the wife?
- What about parents and children and their responsibilities?
- What is important for family unity? How can we recognize the schemes of the enemy and in what form and shape can they manifest themselves?
  
- Pastor used the following words to make a point:

**Sow a thought, you reap an act;  
Sow an act, you reap a habit;  
Sow a habit, you reap a character;  
Sow a character, you reap a destiny.**

- What do these words tell you?

## Let's Examine THE BAD NEWS

### **James 1:13-14**

- What will a trial test?
- What will temptation test?
- What do we all need to remember about temptations?
- What is the relationship between God and temptations? (*v. 13*)
- What attitude should we have toward God when we are tempted?
- What does it mean to be holy?
- Describe James' "progression to death." (*v.14-15*)
- How is temptation like fishing?
- We have an internal desire to "take the bait." What is this desire called? Explain what it is like.
- What does this action cause us to do? Who are we to blame?

## Let's Examine THE MEANING OF THE WORD DEATH

### **James 1:15b**

- Read **James 1:15b**. What does James mean with the words, "bringing forth death?"
- What are the 'life cycle' stages that James uses to describe temptation that is successful?
- How does a person pre-maturely die?
- Pastor shared several passages from the Bible (*1 Cor 11:17-31, Deut 30:15, Prov 12:28 and Prov 13:14*)
- What are the two paths we can travel?
- What path are you on today?

## Let's Examine THE GOOD NEWS

### **James 1:16-18**

- Where does every temptation begin and how does temptation develop?
- What does **Philippians 4:8** tell us about our thoughts?
- What does **Psalms 119:11** tell us about living by God's Word?
- Where should we turn for help?
- If God is not the source of temptation, what is He the source of? (*v. 17*)?
- Explain the connection between God's word and the new birth (*v.18*)?
- What does it mean to be "a kind of firstfruits of his creatures?" (*v.18*)

## Summary

- As you reflect on the message "The Perfect Gift from Heaven," what have you learned about our daily Christian walk?
- What measures can you take when, not if, temptations come?
- What is God's gift to help us through our temptations?