

**NOTES**

3 reasons blaming God is not OK (vv. 13-18):

1. God is \_\_\_\_\_ the source of temptation (v. 13)
2. Temptation’s source is often our own \_\_\_\_\_ nature (vv. 14-15)
3. God only gives \_\_\_\_\_ gifts (vv. 16-18)

**Scripture Refs**

Ex. 14:11; 15:24; 16:2; 17:2; Num. 21:5; Gen. 8:21; Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:20-23  
Jam. 4:1-3; Rev. 20:1-3,7-9; Zech. 14:16-18; Gal. 5:16-17  
Rom. 6:23; 10:17 12:2; 2 Sam. 12:10; 2 Thes. 2:3; Eph. 6:17; Matt. 7:11  
1 John 1:5; 2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:4; 1 Pet. 1:23; John 1:12-13;

**Reflection & Discussion**

1. What is the difference between *testing* and *temptation* in the Bible?
  - a. What Scriptures help us to understand the difference?
  - b. Why is correct to say “God is never the source of temptation?”
  - c. Discuss/share your own ‘interactions’ with testing and temptation—how did the Lord enable you to *prevail*? (OR: do you still need to depend upon the Lord?)
  
2. What Scriptures affirm the *goodness of God*?
  - a. How would you explain to a *suffering* believer that he/she should consider suffering a ‘good gift’?
  - b. What story in the Bible most encourages you through your own times of suffering?
  
3. Have an open discussion about James declaring that God’s people are His “firstfruits”. (What does that mean? Why should it make us *feel special*? ..etc.)