

Discussion Questions:

Why is blaming God such a common response to temptation?

What are some things or people you blame when you sin?

What keeps you from accepting responsibility for sin?

What are some ways you rationalize your sin?

How does your thinking need to change regarding the deceitfulness of sin and your own heart?

Playing the Blame Game

James 1:13-15

It is not natural for us to accept the blame for our sin. We want to find a reason outside of ourselves that excuses our poor judgment. However, James warns us that blaming someone else for our sin, especially God, is foolish and dangerous.

Don't blame! (13)

Mankind's favorite target to blame when things go wrong is God. Yet, the truth is simple and straightforward: God is not responsible for our sin or even for the temptation to sin. God's holiness means He is so far removed from sin that He is not tempted with it, and He does not tempt us either. When you sin, look elsewhere for the source.

Don't overlook! (14)

As we search for someone else to blame, we need to look no further than our own hearts. Our hearts still have desires that war against our new nature. These desires cloud our perspective about the danger of sin.

Don't forget! (15)

Sin has serious consequences. The chain of events is clear and logical: wrong desires produce sin, and sin produces death. Therefore, we must deal harshly with wrong desires; we must put them to death.