

**Materials I Need:**

**Legend:**


-  = Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
-  = Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade


**Memory Work:**

**“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.” James 1:2-3**



**Hook:**


**Look, Remember, Draw (Activity).**


 Set up a collection of objects on a table, and give the students a minute to study what is there. Make the group of objects different enough so that it will be difficult to remember all of the objects. Cover the objects, and ask the students to draw from memory what they saw.


 Ask the students to look at themselves in a mirror for a minute, put the mirror down, and then draw a self-portrait.


**Debrief:** Tell the students that they are going to learn about those who hear God's words but don't obey them. This is compared to the person who looks at a group of things and forgets what is there or looks into a mirror at his own face then removes the mirror and forgets what he looks like. Challenge the students to listen carefully to all that is presented because this week we especially want to be doers of the Word.

**Juicy Temptations Disguise the Hooks of Sin (Visual/Discussion).**   Decorate the classroom beforehand with many large cardboard fishhooks hanging from the ceiling. On each one of these hooks, hang an intriguing piece of paper or cloth. These are the "temptations" which are covering the hook of sin. These temptations should look interesting and cause the students to want to take a closer look. Write words such as *envy, greed, anger, worldly possessions, worry, fear, dissatisfaction, or discouragement* on each piece of paper or cloth. Use materials such as play money, beautiful cloth, glittery paper or foil, toy ads, candy wrappers or candy, or anything else to draw attention or curiosity. On the cardboard hook that has been covered by the temptation, write the resulting sin that occurs if the temptation is taken. It should seem as if the students are like fish swimming in the water underneath the fishhooks. Don't reveal today's message during the HOOK time, as this should simply be a time of building a desire to hear the Bible Adventure. The hooks can be used during Book time to illustrate how sin is like a fishhook that is covered over with a seemingly harmless temptation which, when taken, leads to sin and results in spiritual death. What happens to the fish that takes the bait?

**Our Trials and Temptations (Discussion).**  Tell the students that they will hear how Christians respond during difficult times or times of temptation. Talk with them about times they have had to endure trials or overcome temptation. Perhaps they have given in to temptation that resulted in consequences. Encourage them to tell you about times of persecution or peer pressure. Has their family been through difficult times in the past? How have they responded to these trials and temptations?


 **Fruit of Trials (Concentration Game).** 🐛 Give the students into four groups. Duplex copy **JAM01.GF1 Pgs. 1 & 2** onto cardstock. Make one light-colored set and one dark-colored set of cards for each group. Have each group spread out one set face down on the floor or table and stack the other set face down in a pile. The students should take turns choosing the top card from the pile and any one from the table or floor. If the two are a match, they keep the card from the pile and return the other to the same place it came from. If they do not match, the card from the pile is put on the bottom of the stack, and the card from the table or floor is put back in its same place. The game continues until all of the cards in the draw pile have been matched. Provide a small treat such as fruit-flavored candy for each student who finds a match.

 **Taking the Bait (Craft/Discussion).** 🐛, 🦋 Give each student a **JAM01.GF2 Pg. 1** instruction sheet and a bag of assorted Sculpey III clays. Each should receive a ½ inch ball of silver or gray clay, a ½ inch ball of brown or terracotta clay, a paper punch size ball of white clay, and half that size ball of black clay. You may use googly plastic eyes in place of the black clay. As the students mold the hook and worm sculptures, discuss how temptations are like bait to a fish--it looks good to us, but behind the bait is the hook of sin that will catch us. Ask students to give examples of temptations. Place the clay sculptures on a glass baking dish and bake 20 minutes in a 275 degree oven. Make a list of whose clay sculpture is whose in order to return each sculpture to the right student. Pass the sculptures out during TOOK time. *Note: 2 oz. of Sculpey III clay divided 6 across by 7 down will yield 42 pieces of silver clay for the hook. Clay should be rolled into a 2 ¾" strip in order to make the hook. 2 oz. of Sculpey III clay divided 6 across by 6 down will yield 36 pieces of brown or terracotta clay for the worm. Clay should be rolled into a 3 ¼" strip in order to make the worm.*

 **What is a Temptation? What is a Trial? (Discussion).** 🐛, 🦋 Ask the students if they know the difference between a "temptation" and a "trial." Ask them for examples of both.

---

 **Book:**  
**Presentation Ideas -**

 **Temptation Tackle Box (Lesson Props).** 🐛, 🦋 Bring in a tackle box and pull out different items that are related to today's lesson (i.e., fishhook, bait, ears, hands, etc...). Refer to the Children's Worker Manual for tips on how to use "lesson props."

**Bible Adventure –**

The Lord Jesus Christ had four half-brothers, all born after Him. (They were half-brothers because only Jesus was the Son of God--the rest were sons of Joseph). James was the brother we hear the most about. He later became one of the top leaders of the church in Jerusalem, and wrote the book of James in the New Testament. James was an eyewitness of Jesus' childhood years through His ministry. The amazing thing about this was that even though James grew up with Jesus and saw the sinless life He led, he and his brothers did not believe in Him. The Bible does not tell us how James became a believer, but it probably happened when James came face-to-face with the resurrected Christ. There was no longer any argument or excuse he could make for not putting his faith in Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

As a Jewish believer, James understood what a Jew had to go through to become a Christian. It was hard for many of them to leave behind years of following Jewish rules and traditions and follow Christ alone. Family and friends who were still Jewish did not understand this new life, and many of the Christians were persecuted for their faith in Christ. The persecution did not come only from other Jews; the Roman government also began to look at believers with an unfriendly eye. The persecution caused many of these Jews to scatter and move to other countries. Small wonder, then, that these believers were becoming discouraged as they continued to suffer.

James' letter was written to encourage the Jewish believers to remain faithful to the Lord. This faithfulness would be a sign that they had true, genuine, saving faith. The letter also served a second purpose—to expose the hearts of people who claim to be believers but are actually lying to themselves.

James presents two tests that will show whether someone has true faith or not. The first test is the test of trials. James tells us that a true believer will do two things when going through a trial. First, he will rejoice or “count it joy.” Why? Because he knows that God is in control of everything and has allowed the trial to come into his life in order to teach him something.

The second thing a believer will do when going through a trial is to keep going, not quit. James says that a believer will “remain under” the pressures that the trial puts upon him. A non-Christian will want to run from the trial and won’t see it through to the end. God wants us to face trials because He knows our faith will become more mature and strong as we learn to trust in Him and not in ourselves.

We may not always understand why God is allowing a trial in our lives or how it fits into His plan for us. When we don’t understand, we need to ask God for wisdom (v. 5) without any doubt in our hearts. When we see the trial through God’s wisdom, we can see it as a tool God is using to make our faith stronger!

The second test of true faith given by James is the test of temptation. It’s bad enough when we blame someone else for our sin; it is infinitely worse to blame God for it, James writes. To do so shows that we have no understanding of who God is, and most likely, we do not belong to Him. James uses very strong language when he says that God is totally holy, righteous and without sin. How then, could He ever tempt someone into sin? It’s impossible. No matter how difficult a trial we are going through, we can never blame God for it because He is perfect.

When we are tempted, it is because of the desires of our own flesh. We look at sin and it looks good to us. It whispers to us that it’s going to satisfy and make us happy. We’re like a fish looking at a fishhook covered with a juicy worm or other bait. We swim toward it, take a sniff, then...CHOMP. We get the bait, but we get something else too. We get a nasty sharp hook in our mouth that makes us unable to go where we want. We’re at the mercy of that cruel hook. However, we don’t have to bite, do we? When we’re tempted, we can choose to obey God with a glad heart and avoid the hook of sin. Where does that hooked fish end up? It is pulled from the water, dies, and becomes someone’s supper! Everyone who practices sin ends in spiritual and physical death.

God is in no way responsible for our sins. He does control everything, but man makes his own choices for good or bad. God never changes, and James tells us that “every good and perfect gift” comes from God. God wants His children to lay sin aside and to be doers of His Word. Being a doer, or putting God’s Word into practice in one’s life, is much more important than just being a hearer. If someone hears God’s Word and never really does anything about it, he is showing that he doesn’t really believe it. He may be fooling himself into thinking he is really a Christian, but true faith shows itself in good works of loving obedience to God.

What do others see in you when you are in the middle of a trial or temptation? Do you react the way a true believer does? Do others see that your reaction is greatly different from the world’s way of reacting? Turn your hard times into times of learning. God’s goal is not to keep us safe from all pain or discomfort, but to use trials and temptations to make us more like Christ. Instead of grumbling about the hard things, ask Him for wisdom in dealing with them. Ask Him for the strength to stay in the fight for as long as it takes. He will help you, and you will have the assurance that you have true saving faith.

**Aim Questions:**

- 1. Who wrote the book of James? Which James was it?** *James, the half-brother of Jesus.*
- 2. To whom did James write the book?** *Jewish believers who were scattered abroad.*
- 3. Why did James write the book?** *So people would understand what true faith produces.*
- 4. What is the first test James gives us?** *The test of trials and our response to them.*
- 5. How should true Christians respond to trials?** *We should rejoice and endure patiently.*
- 6. What is the second test James gives us?** *The test of temptations.*
- 7. Who is the only person to blame for our sin?** *Ourselves, because God is holy and cannot sin or tempt anyone to sin.*



## Look:



**Faith “Toolbox” (Craft).** 🦋, 🦋 As we are faced with the everyday trials of life in this world, we can take comfort in Jesus Christ. He has given us the tools to meet the challenges we face each day. In effect, our hearts are the “toolboxes” for God’s tools. James, the brother of Jesus, tells us that we should rejoice in the daily challenges and trials we face because with these trials we build perseverance. When we have faith in Jesus Christ, our “toolboxes” are filled with all of the tools that we need to build a solid foundation and to get us through the difficult challenges. When we are tested, we automatically go to our “toolboxes” and pull out the proper tool for the job. James tells us that we can identify a true believer by the tools that come out of his or her heart during times of testing. Using **JAM01.GF3 Pg. 1**, have students color and cut out the tools. Have them fold **JAM01.GF3 Pg. 2** from top to bottom, and staple or tape edges so that the pictures are on the outside. Then have students put their tools into the “toolbox” and use when needed for that big job.



**What Does James 1 Tell Us? (Worksheet/Discussion).** 🦋, 🦋 Go over each question on **JAM01.GF4** one at a time, asking individuals to read the verses from their Bibles. Have students complete their own worksheet as each question is answered, and discuss how this truth is applied in their lives today.



**Why Christians Go Through Trials (Craft).** 🦋 Give each student **JAM01.GF5 Pg. 1**. When a student finds the correct answer to complete the blank on the worksheet, give him or her the corresponding body part from **JAM01.GF5 Pg. 2**. Put the craft together using five paper clips (one through punch out holes from the head to body, one from body to each leg, one from each leg to each foot) and four brass fasteners (one for each arm to body and one for each arm to each hand). They may color their person as time permits. If they have persevered by looking up and completing all ten verses, their craft person will be mature and complete, not lacking anything.



**Trials and Temptations (Worksheet).** 🦋, 🦋 Match up the verses that encourage us when we are tempted to sin. Draw an arrow to connect those that correspond with each other, **JAM01.GF6**.



**Let’s Go Fishing! (Game/ Activity).** 🦋 Use this game to help the students know how to respond to the different temptations of life. Bring in a fishing pole (or a stick) and tie some fishing line (approximately 2-3 feet) to the end of it. On the end of the line, tie on a magnet. Using **JAM01GF7 Pgs. 1 & 2**, cut out the fish with the different questions and attach a paper clip to each. Place the fish on the ground. Call on one student at a time to catch one of the fish. After the student catches a fish, read the question and see if the student can respond rightly to the temptation.



**Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today’s lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **JAM01.GF8**.



**Trial or Temptation? (Game).** 🦋, 🦋 Have the students stand on a line in the middle of the classroom (you can request Velcro tape). Read one of the scenarios below and have the students determine whether it’s a trial or a temptation. Have them step to one side of the room or the other for their choice. This exercise will help them determine the difference between a trial and a temptation. Here are some sample scenarios you can use:

1. You see a piece of candy, but you know you shouldn’t take it without asking. (temptation)
2. You are watching TV, and a bad commercial comes on. (temptation)
3. You find out that your grandpa needs to be hospitalized. (trial)
4. You don’t know the answers on a test but the person sitting next to you does, and you can see the answers on her paper. (temptation)
5. Your father was in a car accident, and it will cost the family lots of money to pay for it. (trial)
6. You slipped on the ice and accidentally broke your hand. (trial)

- Perseverance Through Trials/Flee Sin (Object Lesson).** 🎗️, 🦋 Use magnets to demonstrate the concept of persevering through trials and fleeing from sin. Those magnets that repel each other should be labeled with temptations (use the temptation ideas the students gave you during the Hook time). Those magnets that are attracted can be used to demonstrate that when trials come, we must press on through them joyfully, seeking strength and maturing in our faith until God removes them.
- 



**Took:**

- James 1 Family Worksheet (Take-Home Worksheet).** 🦋 Post **JAM01.GF9** on your mirror. At the beginning of each day look up the verses listed. As you confront challenges throughout the day, remember the tools that God has given you and use them to build your perseverance. At the end of each day during this week, write down how you were able to use the tools that God has given you.
- Write a Note of Encouragement (Activity).** 🎗️, 🦋 Just like James, write a letter to someone encouraging them in their faith. Send a note to one of our missionaries telling them what you learned in Bible school this morning, and share some scripture verses that may encourage them to continue to endure the trials placed before them.
- Hearer and Doer Evaluation (Craft).** 🎗️, 🦋 Give students **JAM01.GF10 Pg. 1** and stickers from **JAM01.GF10 Pg. 2**, and ask them to evaluate themselves. The verses on this sheet are all verses from this year. Have they been coming to Bible school to be just hearers of God's Word or have they been applying what they've heard, becoming doers of the Word through God's Spirit? They should put an ear sticker where they've heard God's Word, then add a heart sticker where they have taken God's Word to heart and applied it to their everyday lives. Let the students take home the remaining heart stickers; challenge them to become doers in the areas that they haven't yet become doers. When they see the change God's power makes in that area they can add the sticker.
- Hearing, Remembering, Doing (Activity).** 🦋 In light of what they have learned this morning, ask students how they will apply what they have heard. Have them use **JAM01.GF11** to record these ideas and to set goals for the week. Ask them what actions they can take to do something that will glorify God this week. Challenge them to bring their ideas back next week so you can follow up as to how things went.
- Clay Necklace (Craft Completion).** 🎗️, 🦋 Cut 20 inches of fishing line for each student. Thread each student's hook and worm sculpture made in HOOK time onto the fishing line. Tie the line to form a necklace. Have the students fold a tag from **JAM01.GF12** in half and attach to the knotted end through a small punch hole in the corner. Have the students wear it as a reminder to be steadfast during trials and to resist temptation.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

PATIENCE

GENTLENESS

HUMILITY

JOY

LOVE

SELF-CONTROL

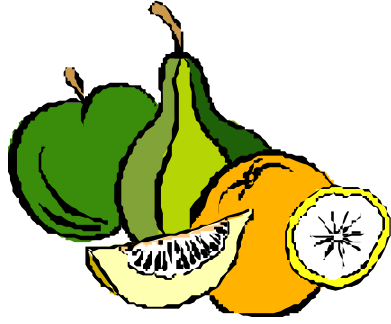
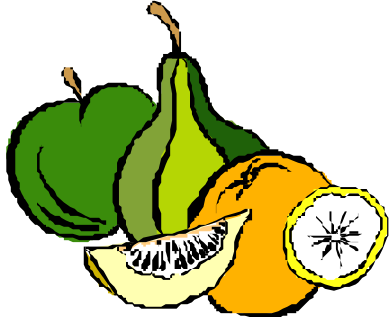
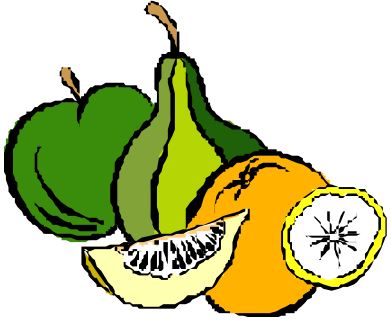
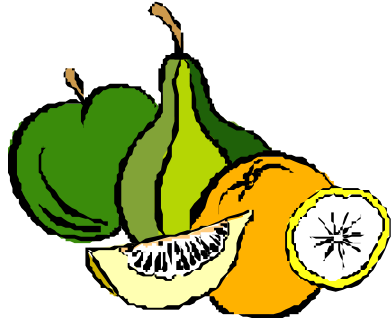
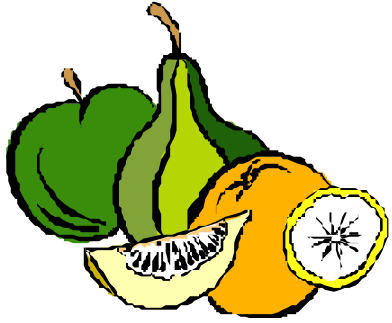
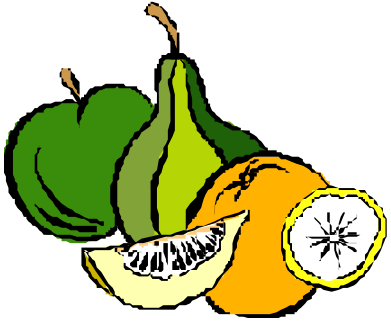
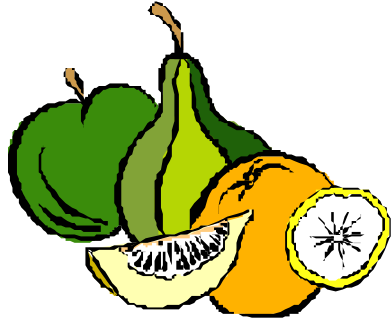
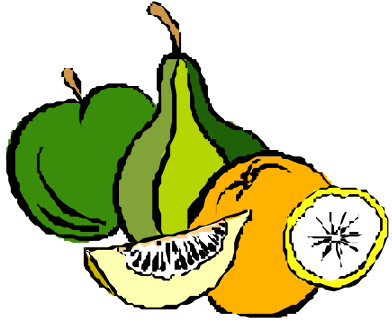
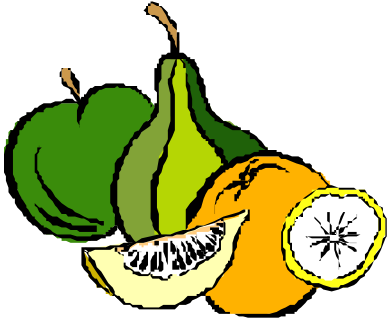
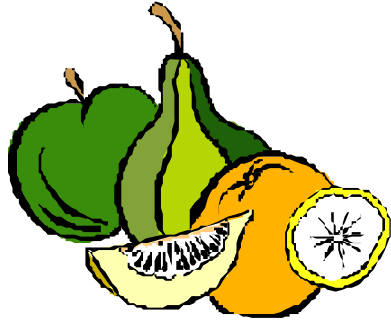
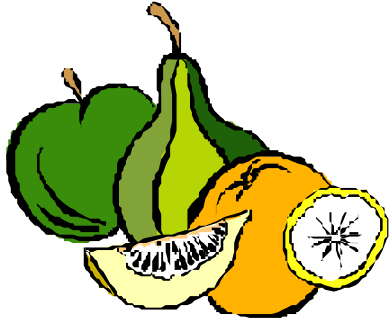
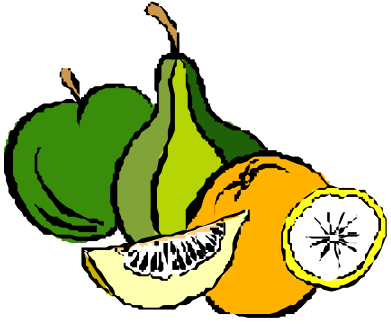
WISDOM

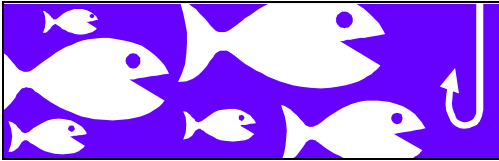
FAITHFULNESS

KINDNESS

PEACE

PERSEVERANCE





# Taking the Bait

*You will need:*

1. Sculpey III clay in terracotta or brown, silver or gray, white, and black
2. googly plastic eyes (optional)
3. glue
4. toothpick
5. 20 inch piece of fishing line

*For the hook:*

*Roll a piece of silver or grey clay to this length.*



*For the worm:*

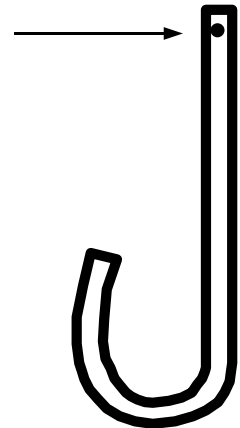
*Roll a piece of terracotta or brown clay to this length.*



*Make eyes out of white and black clay this size, or use googly plastic eyes.*



*Poke a hole at the end of the hook.*

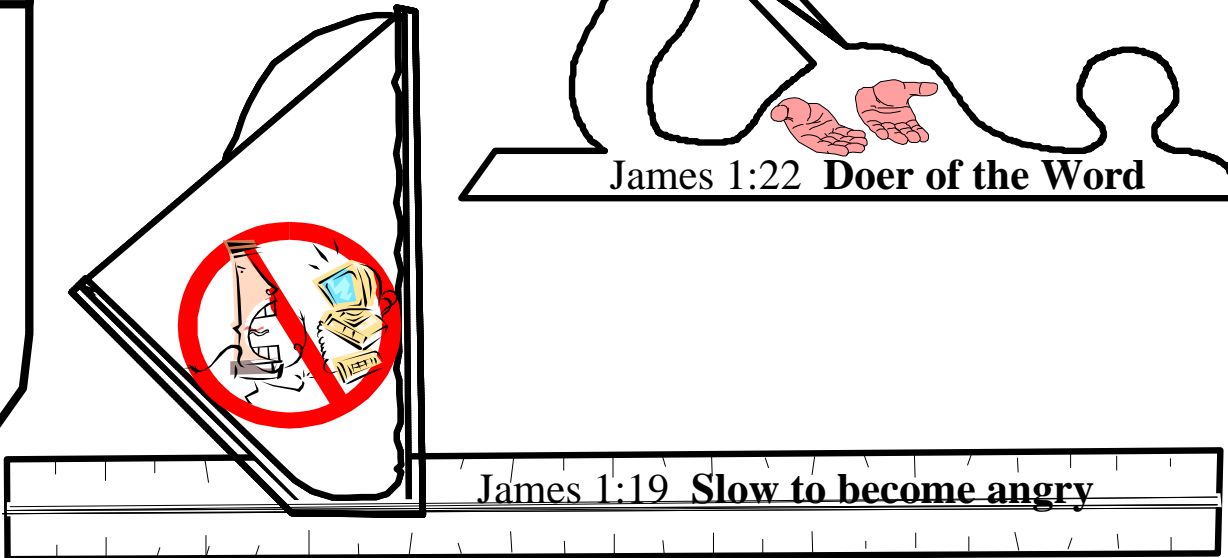
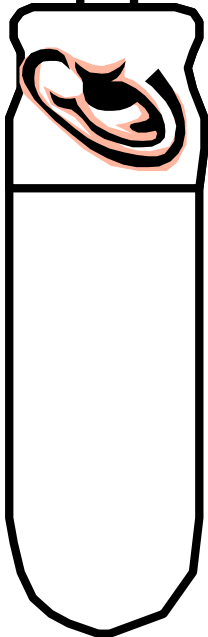
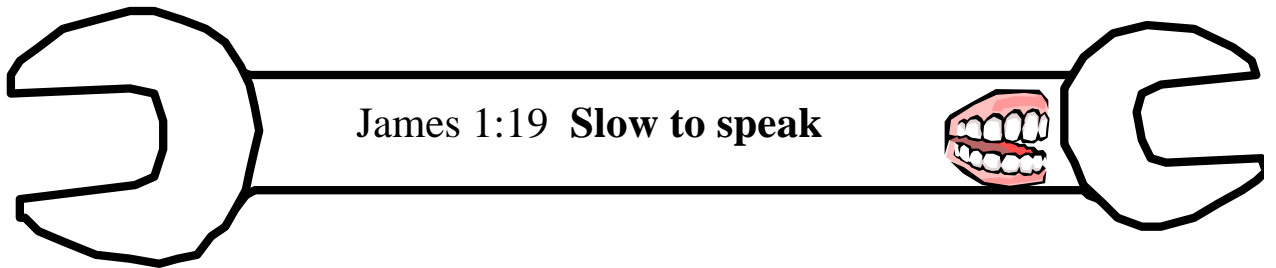
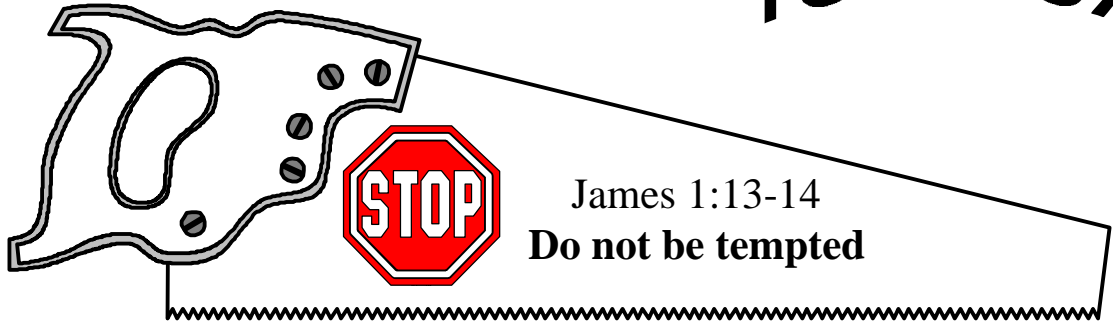
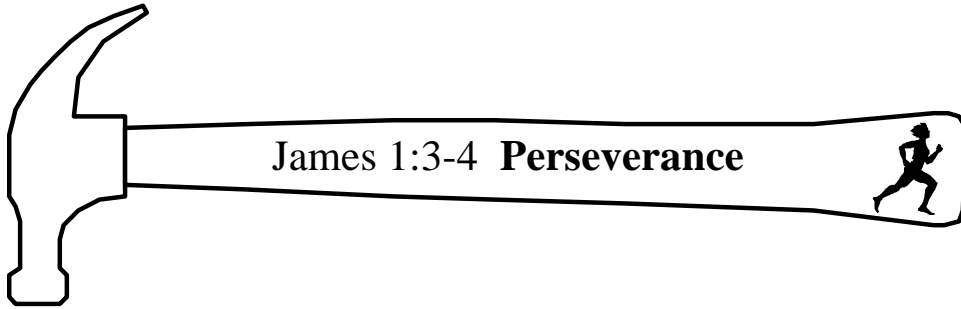


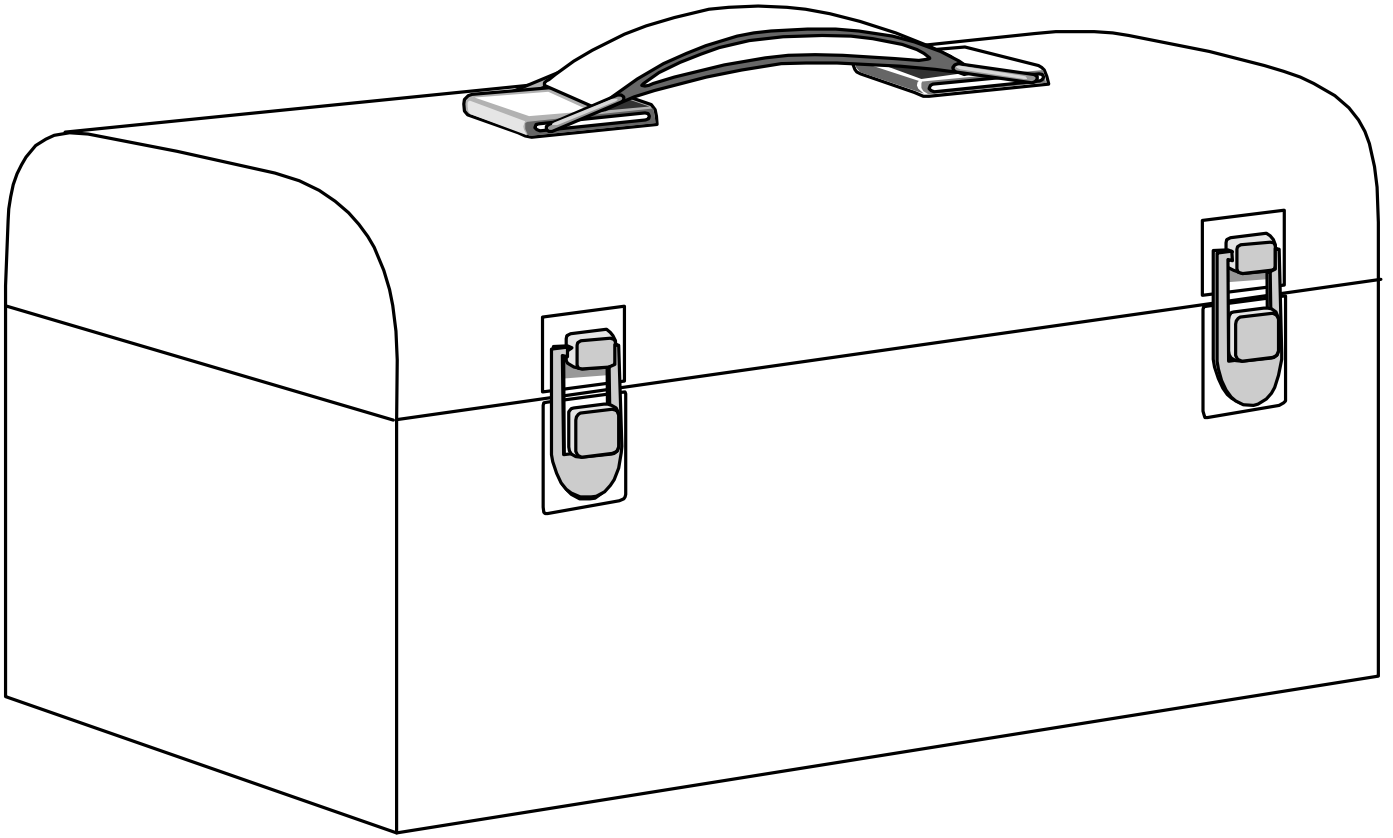
*Wrap worm around hook, starting at head. Glue eyes on head, and poke a hole at the end for the mouth.*

*Bake at 275 degrees for 20 minutes.*

# Faith

# Toolbox





James 1:2-3

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”

# What Does James 1 Tell Us?

Look up the verses below to find the answers for each of the questions.

James 1:2-4      What do trials develop? \_\_\_\_\_ \*

James 1:5-8      How will we find wisdom? \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:9-11      How are riches counted in  
heaven? \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:12-15      Where does temptation come from? \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:16-18      Where does every good thing come from? \_\_\_\_\_

James 1:19-21      We should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and  
slow to \_\_\_\_\_.

James 1:22-25      Obedience is not just hearing and knowing God's  
Word but \_\_\_\_\_.

\*perseverance means enduring, being steadfast, being patient

# WHY CHRISTIANS GO THROUGH TRIALS

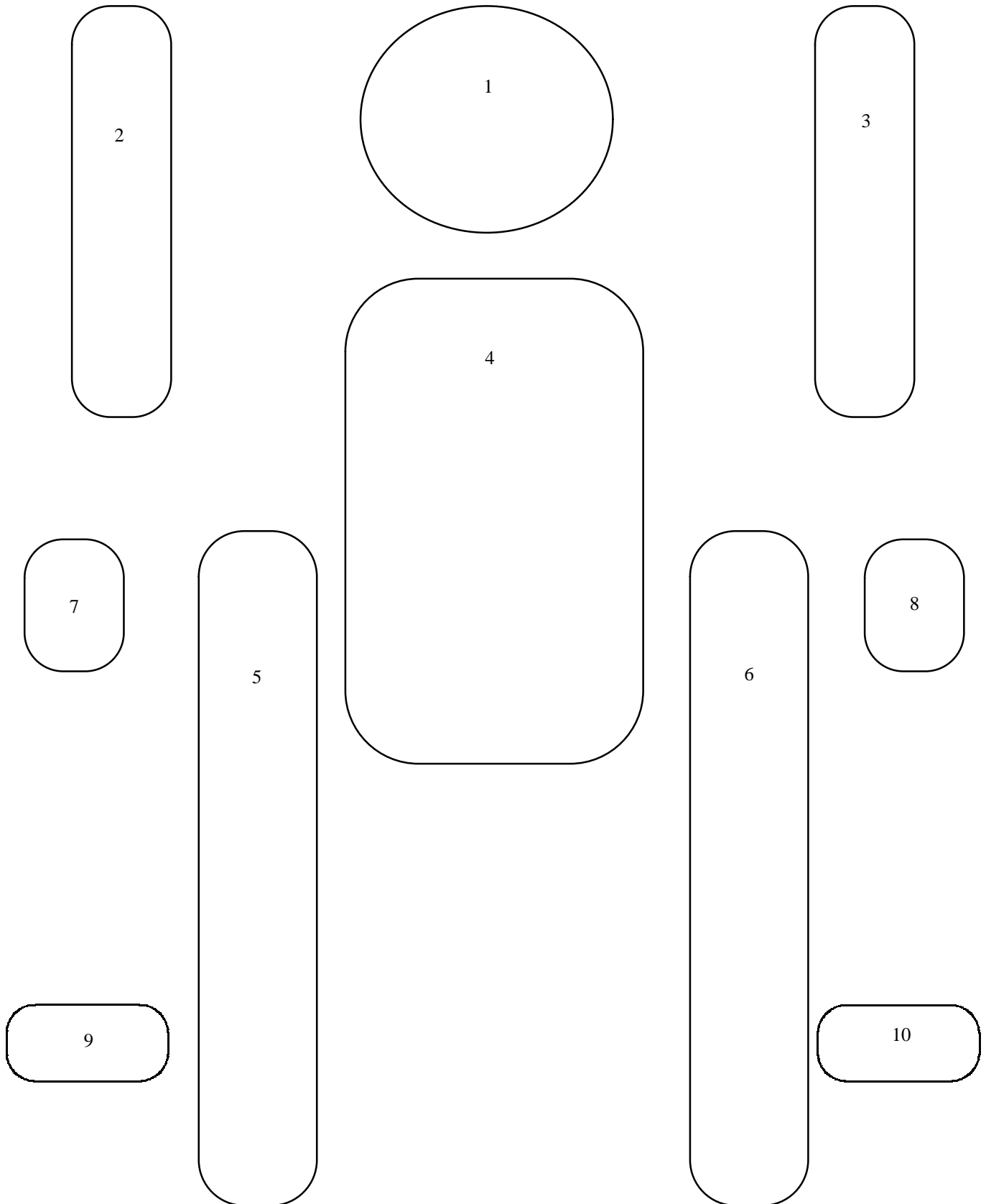
Next to each verse, write down what it says about Christians going through trials. For each blank you complete you will be given a body part to complete your craft.

1. Romans 5:3
2. 1 Peter 5:10
3. 1 Peter 1:6-7
4. Psalm 119:67
5. Psalm 126:5
6. John 11:4
7. 1 Corinthians 10:13
8. 1 Peter 4:14-16
9. Hebrews 12:11
10. John 11:4

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

James 1:2-4

# WHY CHRISTIANS GO THROUGH TRIALS



# Trials and Temptations

Look up the verses on the right and match them to the temptations on the left.  
Draw a line to connect them. When we are tempted to fall into sin during trials, we can come  
to the Word of God to help us persevere through that time.

Tempted to Sin

Hebrews 10:35-36

Fearful

John 12:1

Confused

Psalms 107:9

Anger

2 Timothy 1:7

Bitter

Ephesians 4:31-32

Worried

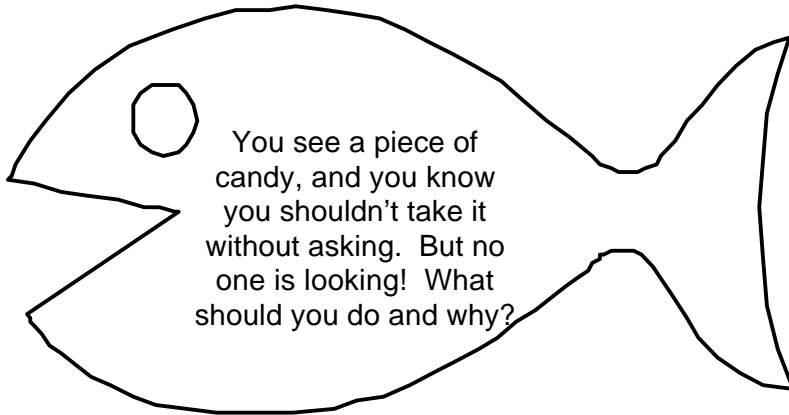
Romans 6:12-13

Discouraged

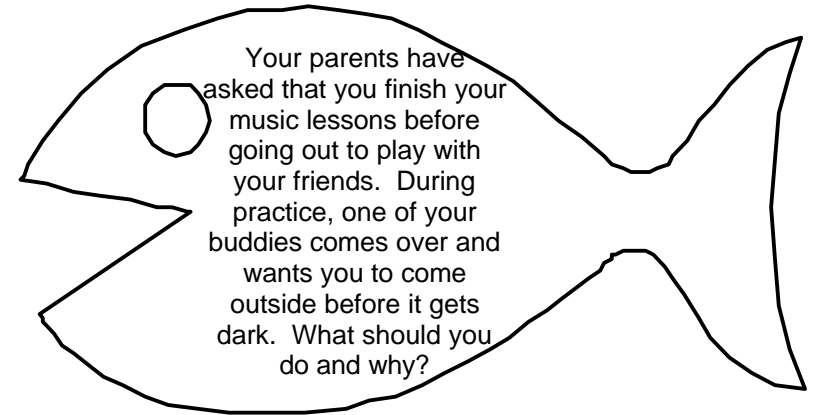
Proverbs 3:5-6

Dissatisfied

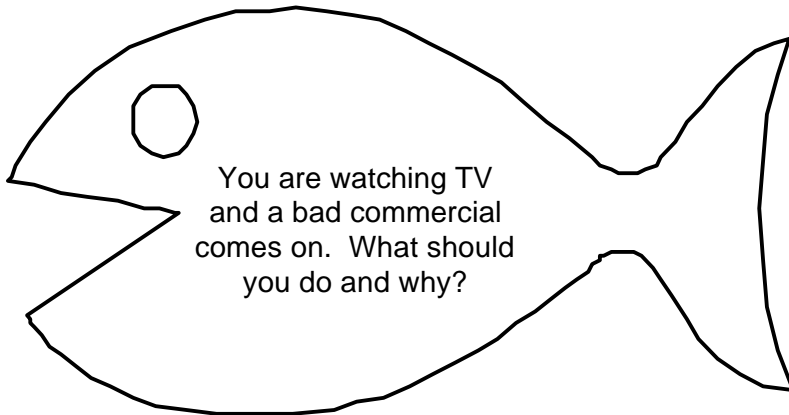
Proverbs 29:11



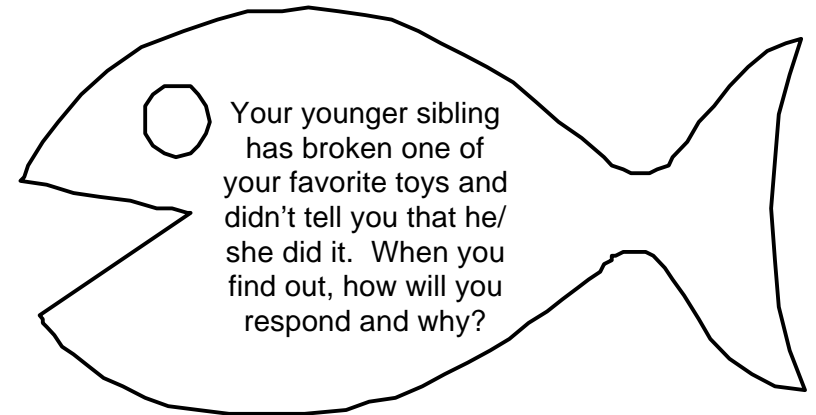
You see a piece of candy, and you know you shouldn't take it without asking. But no one is looking! What should you do and why?



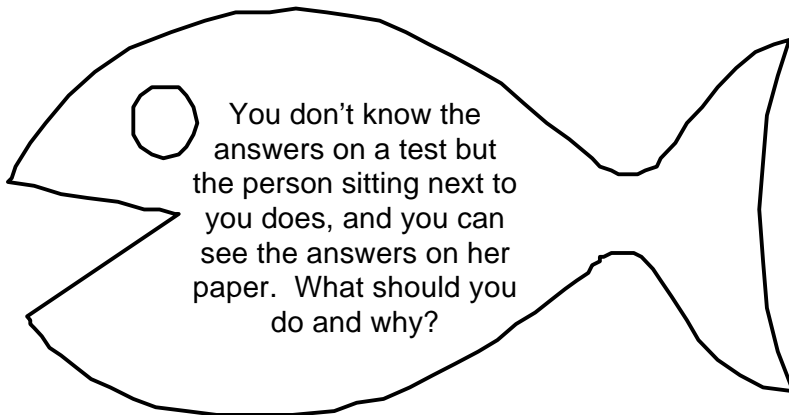
Your parents have asked that you finish your music lessons before going out to play with your friends. During practice, one of your buddies comes over and wants you to come outside before it gets dark. What should you do and why?



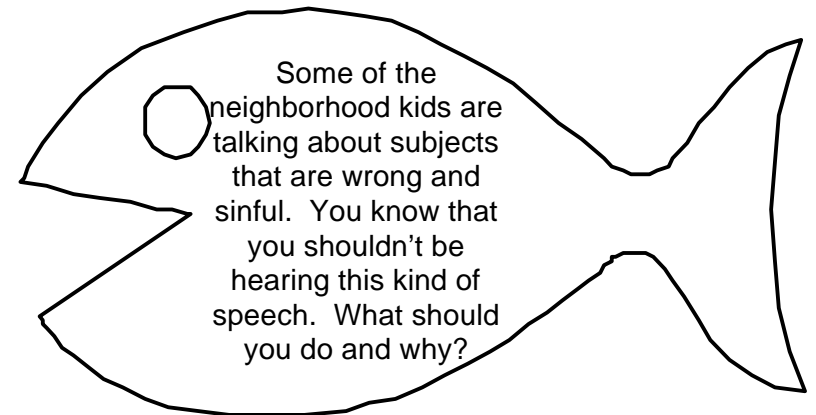
You are watching TV and a bad commercial comes on. What should you do and why?



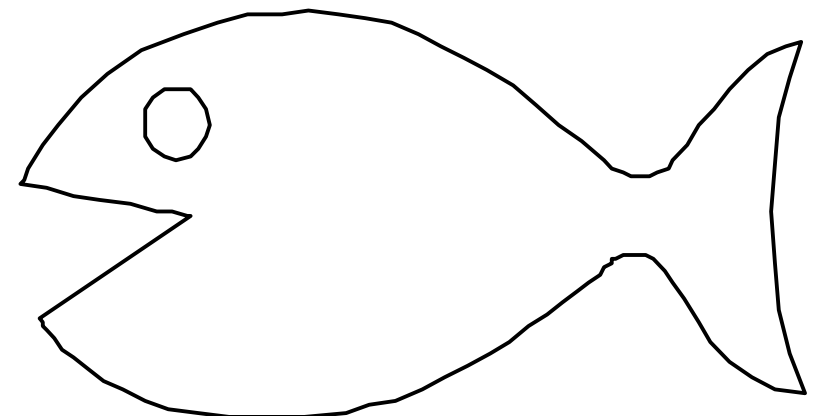
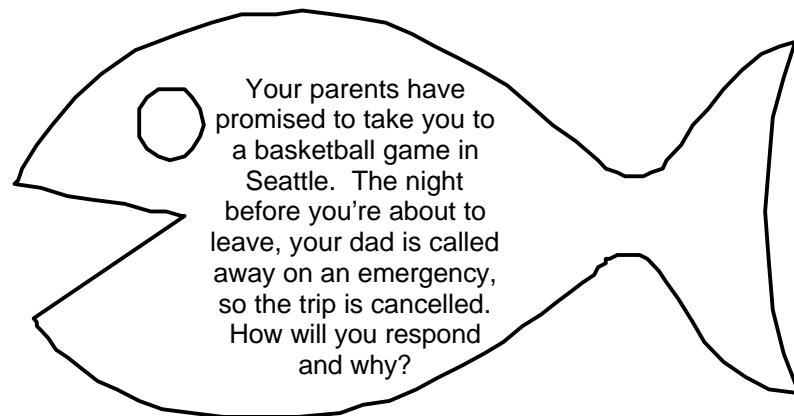
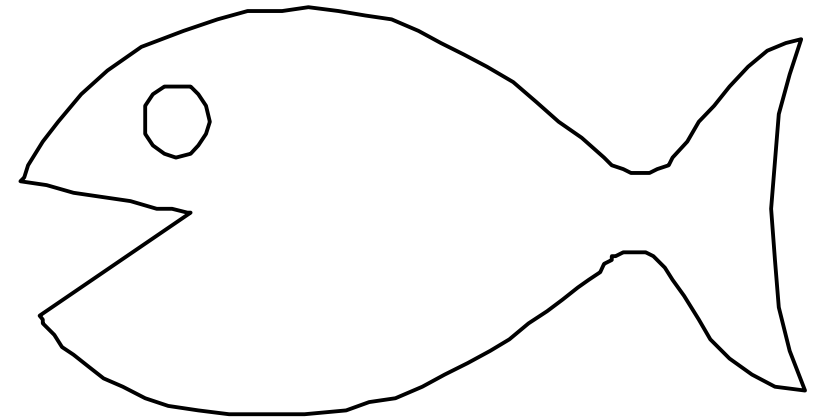
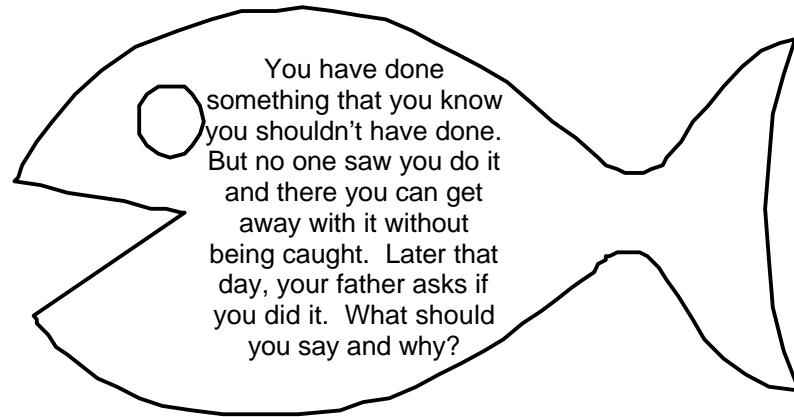
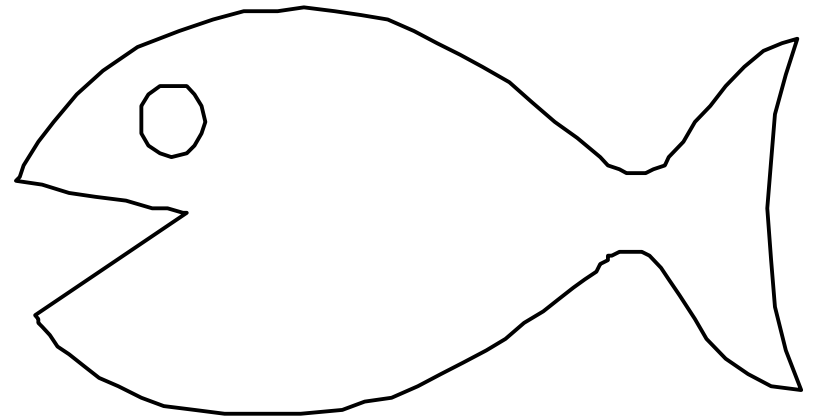
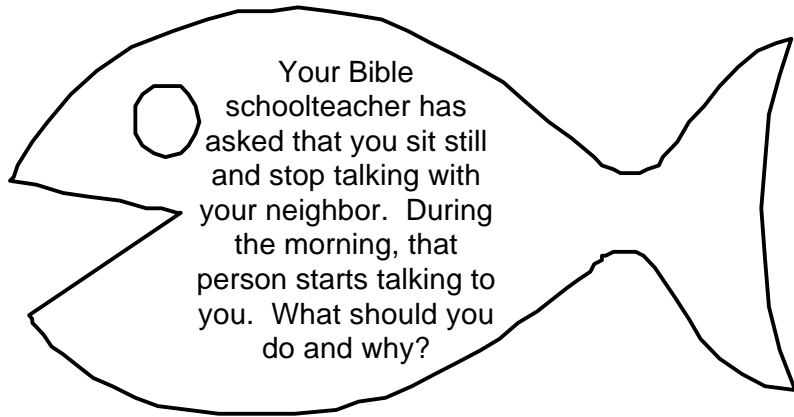
Your younger sibling has broken one of your favorite toys and didn't tell you that he/she did it. When you find out, how will you respond and why?



You don't know the answers on a test but the person sitting next to you does, and you can see the answers on her paper. What should you do and why?



Some of the neighborhood kids are talking about subjects that are wrong and sinful. You know that you shouldn't be hearing this kind of speech. What should you do and why?



What then are we supposed to do? 1:21

What are we not to merely do? 1:22a

What do we do if we just listen to the Word? 1:22b

Then what must we do? 1:22c

Anyone who listens to the Word but does not do what the Word says is like \_\_\_\_\_. 1:23

What does a man do after he looks at himself in the mirror and then goes away? 1:24

If someone considers himself religious, but does not bridle his tongue he deceives \_\_\_\_\_ and his religion is \_\_\_\_\_. 1:26

What is the religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless? 1:27

## Passage Review Questions

### James Chapter 1

Who was the servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ? 1:1a

To whom is the letter written? 1:1b

What are we to consider pure joy? 1:2

Why are we to do so? 1:3

Why must a person develop perseverance and let it finish its work? 1:4

If anyone lacks wisdom, from whom should he or she ask for wisdom and why? 1:5

What will God do? 1:5b

When a person asks for wisdom, what must that person do? 1:6a

If he doubts, what is he like? 1:6b

What is it that the doubting man should not think he will receive?  
1:7

What is a double-minded man in all that he does? 1:8

What should the brother in humble circumstances do in his high  
position? 1:9

What should the person who is rich do, and why should he do  
this? 1:10

What rises in the sky? What does it do? 1:11a

When the plant gets scorched what happens to it? How is this  
like a rich man? 1:11b

What is the man who perseveres under trial? Why is this? 1:12

What should no one say when he is tempted? Why? 1:13

How is each one tempted? 1:14

What happens after desire has conceived? 1:15

What are we not to be? 1:16

From where does every good and perfect gift come? 1:17a

What does the Father not do? 1:17b

What does the Father choose to do? Why is this? 1:18

Of what are we to take note? 1:19

What about a person's anger? 1:20

# James 1 Family Worksheet

James 1:2 **Perseverance**



---

---

---

James 1:13-14 **No Temptation**



---

---

---

James 1:22 **Doer of the Word**



---

---

---

James 1:19 **Quick to Hear**



---

---

---

James 1:19 **Think before Speaking**



---

---

---

James 1:19 **Slow to Wrath**



---

---

---

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.” James 1:2-3

# AM I A HEARER AND A DOER?

Review the following verses.

If you have heard it before, put an ear sticker in the left-hand column .

During this week, put a heart sticker in the right-hand column of those verses that you have taken to heart and applied to your daily life.

I am a hearer of  
God's Word

I am a doer of  
God's Word

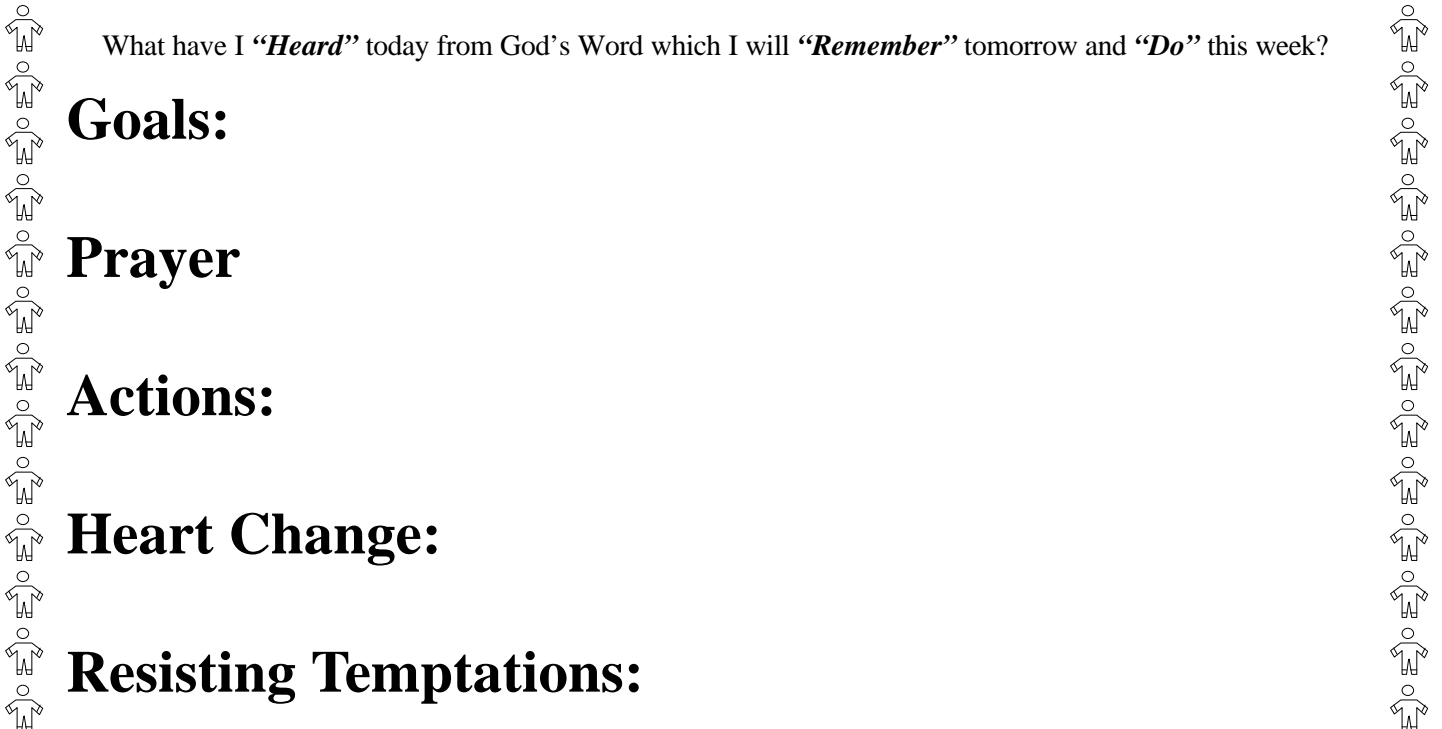
	<p>“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.” Colossians 3:20 (I obey my parents.)</p>	
	<p>“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (I trust the Lord and lean on Him.)</p>	
	<p>“The sluggard craves and gets nothing; but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.” Proverbs 13:4 (I am not lazy. I work hard until I finish a job.)</p>	
	<p>“Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.” Proverbs 25:28 (I am self controlled.)</p>	
	<p>“A man's pride brings him low, but a man of lowly spirit gains honor.” Proverbs 29:23 (I am humble.)</p>	
	<p>“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16 (I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and have asked Him to be my personal Savior.)</p>	
	<p>“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.” Ecclesiastes 12:13 (I obey the Word of God.)</p>	





# Hearing - Remembering - Doing

What have I *“Heard”* today from God’s Word which I will *“Remember”* tomorrow and *“Do”* this week?



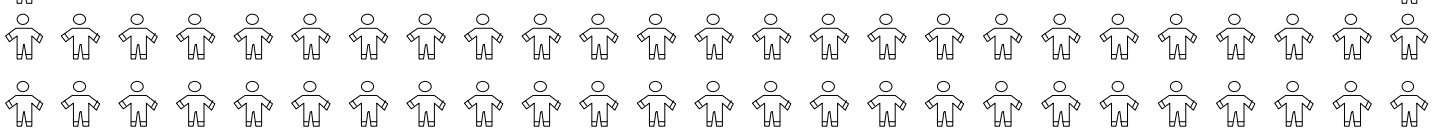
**Goals:**

**Prayer**

**Actions:**

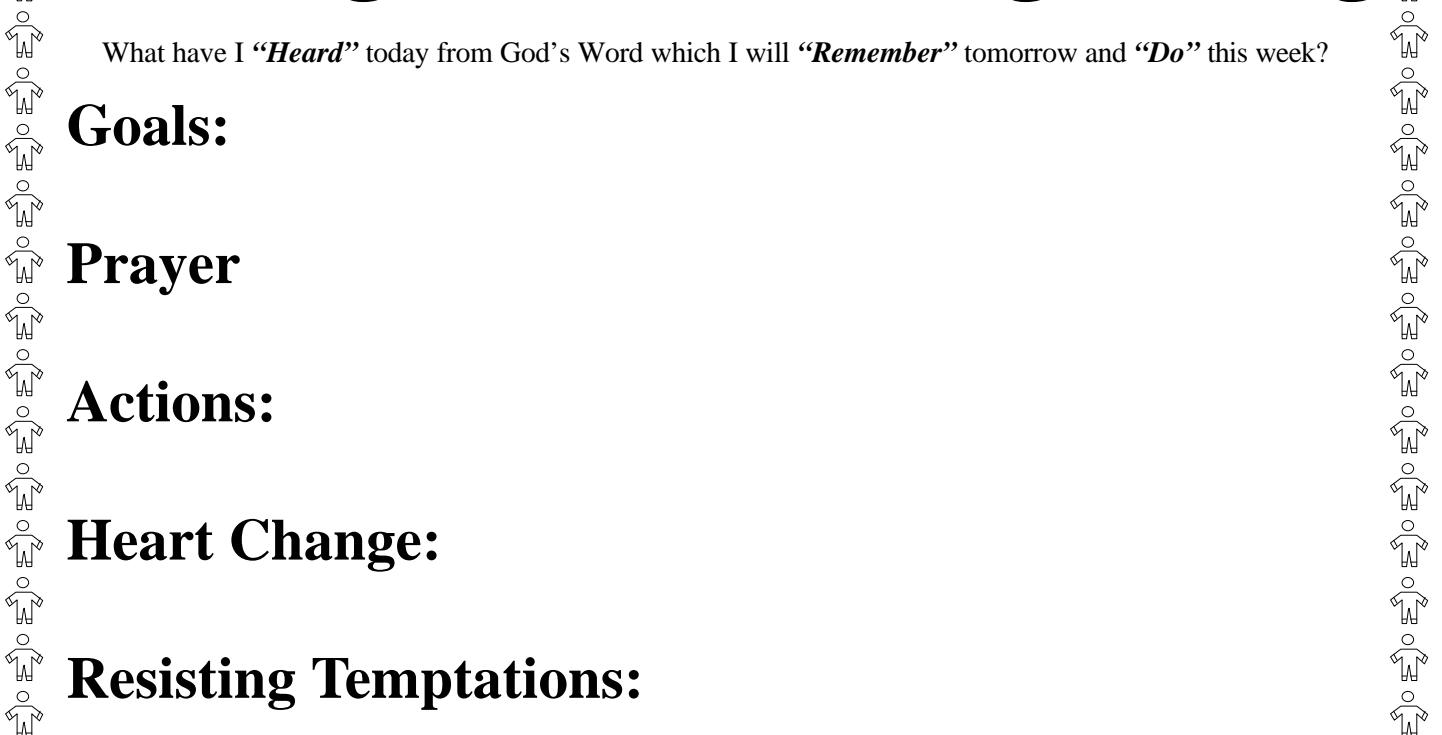
**Heart Change:**

**Resisting Temptations:**



# Hearing - Remembering - Doing

What have I *“Heard”* today from God’s Word which I will *“Remember”* tomorrow and *“Do”* this week?



**Goals:**

**Prayer**

**Actions:**

**Heart Change:**

**Resisting Temptations:**

