The Invisible War - Winning the Battle of Temptation
Session One - Understanding the Sources and Purposes of Temptation

Two Kinds of Testing:

- **Trial**: A situation designed by God in order to __________________ to him.
- **Temptation**: A situation designed by Satan in order to __________________ from God.

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 NIV)

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone . . . (James 1:13 NIV)

General Facts about Temptation:

- It is not a __________________ to be tempted.

Jesus was in all points tempted like as we are, yet he sinned not. (Hebrews 4:15)

Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16 NKJV)

- I will never __________________ temptation.

No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way [of escape] so that you can stand up under it. (1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV)

- Temptation will __________________.
- Temptations are __________________ to everybody.
- God __________________ every temptation we go through.
- God will __________________ if I trust him.

The Three Sources of Temptation

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; “but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (James 1:13-15 NIV)
• My own _________________.
• The___________________.
• The___________________.

• Temptation from within/myself - Lust is an unrighteous way to fulfil a _________________.

• Temptation from the World - For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the pride of life - comes not from the Father but from the world. "The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever. (1 John 2:16-17 NIV/NKJV)

• Temptation from the Devil - The devil’s purpose in temptation is to _________________.

Why God Allows Temptation:
• The necessity of _________________.

• Temptation shows us:
  o What we _____________________.
  o Where we _____________________.
  o Where we’re _____________________.in the future if we don’t change

• It allows a choice that is essential for character building. It’s an opportunity for growth.

Possible Discussion Areas/Questions...

1. What did you hear?

2. What do you think?

3. What will you do?