

THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT



1. Which one do you think is the **absolute worst**? Why?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telling a lie | <input type="checkbox"/> Backstabbing a friend |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheating on a test | <input type="checkbox"/> Cussing out a teammate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stealing from your parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarizing information off the Internet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chain-smoking | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking alcohol |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Looking at porno magazines or Web sites | <input type="checkbox"/> Hitting a sibling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Faking the flu to get out of school | <input type="checkbox"/> Going too far with physical intimacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doing drugs | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoplifting |

2. How would you answer each item?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| a. I'm tempted to do bad things— | b. When I give in to temptation, I usually feel— | c. Most of the time, when I'm tempted— |
| <input type="checkbox"/> more now than I used to be. | <input type="checkbox"/> ashamed of myself. | <input type="checkbox"/> I think about it a long time. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> about the same now as I used to be. | <input type="checkbox"/> proud of myself. | <input type="checkbox"/> I give in right away. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> less now than I used to be. | <input type="checkbox"/> okay about myself. | <input type="checkbox"/> I try to ignore the temptation. |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> nothing. | <input type="checkbox"/> I read my Bible and pray. |

3. True or false—

- Sometimes God tempts you as a test, to see if you will resist. _____
- It's a sin to be tempted to do bad things. _____
- Christians are tempted as often as non-Christians. _____
- Some temptations are too hard to resist. _____
- Temptation comes from the devil. _____
- If you give in to temptation, it's the devil's fault. _____

4. Complete the sentences below, using what you learn from reading the following Bible verses **Psalm 119:11, Luke 22:46, 1 Corinthians 10:13, and James 4:7.**

One way to resist temptation is to—

Another way is to—

I know that when I am tempted, God will—

If I resist the devil's temptation, I know the devil will—

THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT [t e m p t a t i o n]

THIS WEEK

Temptations are everywhere for both teenagers and adults. As your kids get more independence from their parents and approach adulthood, they'll face temptations that they never have before. They'll also realize how temptations can lead to feelings of guilt and failure. Use this TalkSheet to discuss temptation with your group in a supportive, encouraging way.

OPENER

This intro will be sure to get things going. Have your kids write out temptations that they—or teenagers their age—face in their lives (don't have them write names). Then collect the pieces of paper.

Your kids will role-play the temptations that come with each of these situations. Start by asking for three volunteers—one a devil, another an angel, and the third as a person being tempted (the tempted). Ask the tempted to sit in a chair with the devil on one side, the angel on the other. Pick a situation and read it out loud. Then the angel and devil must work against each other to influence the tempted's decision. You can rotate participants with different situations to get everyone involved.

Afterwards, ask the group how they felt as the person who was being tempted. Which, the angel or the devil, was easier to listen to? What pressures were hard to resist? How did they balance their values against what they wanted to do?

THE DISCUSSION, BY THE NUMBERS

1. Try to keep this one general—don't expect your kids to reveal their answers. Go the roundabout way and ask them how many items they checked. Ask them which ones they feel teenagers in general struggle with the most.
2. When asking them to share their answers, don't force anyone to participate. Point out that teens face temptation now more than they did ever have. Brainstorm ways to resist temptation when discussing the second sentence. After the last sentence, explain to the group that guilt and shame are normal feelings. Communicate that if they are sorry for what they've done and ask for forgiveness, God forgives and takes away the guilt.
3. Temptation is Satan's way of stealing people away from God. Satan cannot make your kids do anything, so they can't blame Satan for their sins. Satan is extremely powerful and he tempts people in their weaknesses. God never tempts people—that's Satan at work.
4. How did your kids complete the sentences on temptation? Talk about how Jesus dealt with temptation and what your kids can do in their lives to avoid certain situations.

THE CLOSE

Temptation is part of being human. Everyone has been created by God with a free will—they are responsible for their choices. And, the choices they make today will affect them in the future. Even though they can make choices, they must be aware of the consequences that may follow.

How can your group members strengthen their faith and resist temptation? What are some ways to protect themselves from Satan's schemes? The more firmly rooted they are in Christ, the more power they'll have from the Holy Spirit. God gives his followers tools to resist the devil—reading the Bible, memorizing verses, getting involved in youth group, hanging out with Christian friends, and communicating regularly with God through prayer. The best way to resist temptation is to stay close to Christ—the only man in history who has ever beat the devil on his own turf. Christ can give them the strength to make the right choices. You may want to read a few Bible passages to take this further—the temptation of Christ (Matthew 4:1-11) and the armor of God and spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18).

MORE

- What is one temptation in particular that each of your kids struggles with? Ask the group the following questions to think about—what is this temptation? Are there certain times when they are tempted more than other times? Do certain people tempt them more than others? What can they do to avoid this temptation from now on?
- On a large poster board or whiteboard, have your kids list specific temptations that teenagers face. Some of these include pornography, premarital sex, drinking, and drug abuse. Use these examples to set up case scenarios of a kid who is tempted and must choose what to do. Talk about the consequences if he or she gives in to the temptation. What may happen if the kid resists? What if they give in? What impact with this have in a month? A year? Longer? You may want to play devil's advocate to get them thinking.