

# THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT

1. How would you complete these?

I'm tempted to do bad things—

- more than I used to be.
- about the same as I used to be.
- less than I used to be.
- I don't know.

Most of the time, when I'm tempted—

- I think about it for a while.
- I give in right away.
- I ignore it.
- I ask God for strength.

When I give into temptation, I usually feel—

- guilty or ashamed.
- proud or satisfied.
- nothing.



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

- Blatantly lying
- Cheating on a final
- Murdering someone
- Stealing from your work
- Out-speeding a cop
- Chain-smoking
- Looking at porno magazines or Web sites
- Faking the flu to get out of school
- Frequently cursing
- Doing drugs
- Backstabbing a friend
- Plagiarizing information off the Internet
- Drinking alcohol
- Going too far with physical intimacy
- Taking a parent's credit card

3. How would you handle these temptations?

If I accidentally logged on to a pornographic Web site, I would—

If my parents were being unfair to me, I would—

If I were pressured to have sex, I would—

If I knew I could get away with cheating on a test, I would—

If my friends were getting wasted, I would—

If my friend dared me to shoplift, I would—

4. If someone asked you how you overcome temptation, what could you say based on these verses?

Psalms 119:11

1 Corinthians 10:13

Luke 22:46

James 4:7

John 16:33

# 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.

## OPEN

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 the 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. What 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 NUMBERS

1. When asking for 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 and discuss God's forgiveness.
2. Which of these would your kids consider to be the worst and why? What do you think makes one sin worse than another? Point that in God's eyes, all sins are equal. How does this make your kids feel? Do they think any of these items aren't sins (like chain-smoking or drinking)? Why or why not?
3. What are some realistic ways for your kids to handle these temptations? Which ones would be easier to get out of than others? Where do your kids go to for strength when facing temptation? Are they leaning on their own strength—or are they asking for God's help, too?
4. You may want to let your kids work on this in groups of two or three. Ask them to write out what they would say, based on these Bible verses. Will these ideas from the Bible help or work for your students? Why or why not? Have a few of

them share their responses and talk about these with the group.

## THE CLOSE

Temptation is part of being human. Everyone is created by God with a free will—they are responsible for their choices. 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? God gives his followers tools to resist the devil—reading the Bible, memorizing verses, 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. 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 your kids struggle 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 girl or guy who is tempted and must chose what to do. Talk about what consequences he or she will face if they give in to the temptation. What may happen if they resist? 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.