



BAIT & SWITCH

HOOKED: SESSION ONE

BOTTOM LINE

THERE IS A HOOK IN EVERY TEMPTATION

SCRIPTURE: "When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire 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**

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP: To help students say no to temptation by understanding that, inside every temptation, there is a hook that will hurt them. To do this, create meaningful conversation. This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here.

THINK ABOUT THIS

When it comes to temptation, your middle schoolers might be all over the map. One student's biggest temptation might be to sneak a peek at their neighbor's math homework, while another... well, let's just say there might be more serious things tempting some of your few. As you prepare to lead your small group, think about how you'll manage that tension. Remember, a big part of your job is to create a safe place for each of them to be heard and known.

JUST FOR FUN

- What was the worst moment of your week this week? What was the best?
- After all that talk about junk food today, what was the best thing you ate this week?

SAY THIS

"Today we talked about temptation, and the things that so often tempt us. With that in mind..."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How would you define *temptation*?
- What are some examples of things that you, or people you know, are often tempted by?
- What is it about those temptations that make them so hard to resist?
- Give some examples of the lies people believe when they give in to temptation.
- How can you ask other people to help you when you feel tempted?
- Instead of believing that God is mad at you when you give in to temptation, what is a truth you can hold onto instead?

TRY THIS

As a group, make a list together of some common temptations. Take a vote to see which of those temptations are most difficult for your group to say no to. Together, come to an agreement on one or two that everyone seems to face and brainstorm some ways to fight that particular temptation this coming week. Tell them they can volunteer to share their stories and experiences next week during small group.