



THE COOKIE JAR

HOOKED: SESSION TWO

BOTTOM LINE

GOD CARES MORE ABOUT WHAT WE EMBRACE
THAN WHAT WE AVOID

SCRIPTURE: "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. 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 out so that you can endure it." | CORINTHIANS 10:13 NIV

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP: To help students understand that God doesn't just want them to say no to temptation and live well-behaved lives. He wants them to say yes to something better. 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

The average middle schooler probably hears the word DON'T pretty often... some more than others. (You've probably got one of those kids in your group, right?) DON'T can be a frustrating word for a middle schooler. But think about the word DO. It's helpful. It's clear. It's practical. It's motivating! So today, as we talk about temptation, help your students think about all of the things they can DO, instead of giving into the things they know they shouldn't.

JUST FOR FUN

- Look up a funny "epic fail" video on YouTube and watch it together.
- Did anyone do anything really dumb this week?
- What's something you're really glad that you did this week?

SAY THIS

"Today we talked about something that can help prevent us from doing stupid things when we're feeling tempted. Does anyone want to summarize it?"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How does talking about temptation make you feel? (Do you feel like it's helpful? Or are you feeling frustrated? Guilty? Confused? Bored?)
- Why do you think it's a good idea to talk about temptation, especially right now, in middle school?
- What are some reasons people give in to temptation?
- How does it benefit you when you resist temptation?
- How does it change your attitude toward temptation when you focus on what God wants you to embrace, rather than what you should avoid?

TRY THIS

Together, brainstorm a handful of temptations that your students are facing right now - temptations they should avoid. Then brainstorm some things they could embrace instead.

Give the cards you received before small group to everyone in your group (pens, too!). Have your students take a moment to themselves to write down one thing each that they want to "avoid" in their lives, followed by something they could "embrace" instead. Then brainstorm together some places they could keep their cards as a reminder.