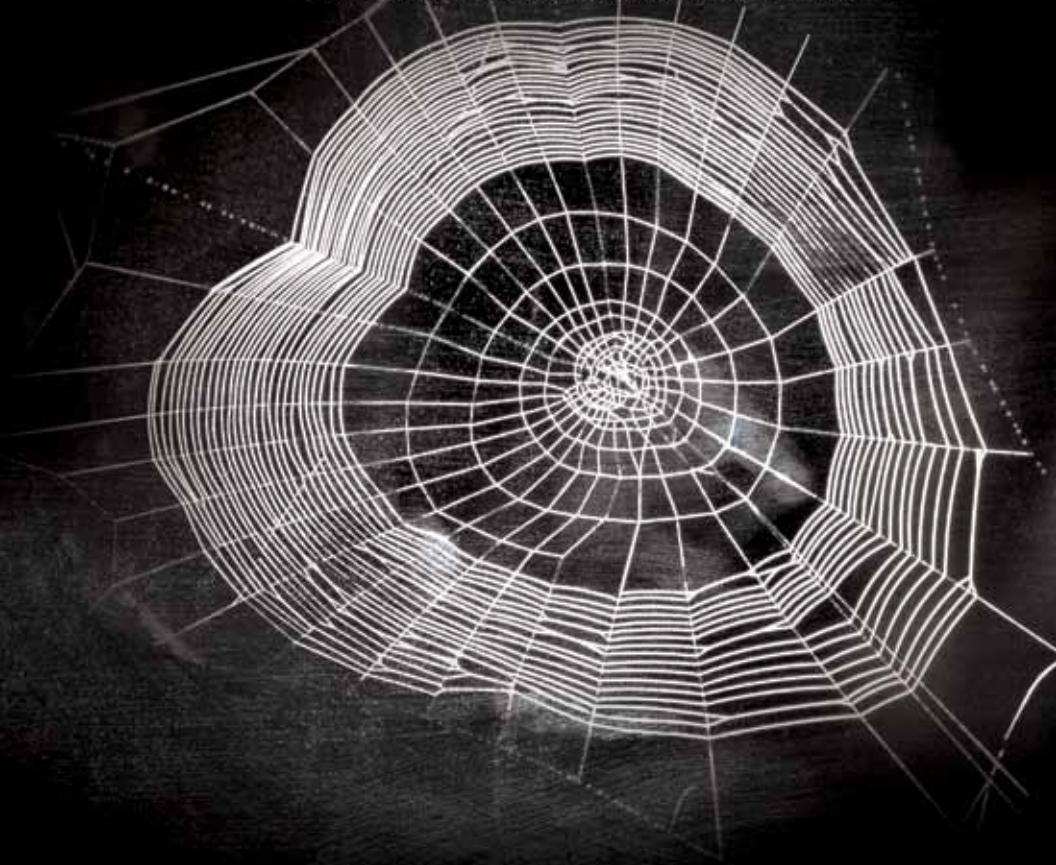


STANDING STRONG AGAINST TEMPTATION



TEMPTATION

workbook kenny luck

Being God's
man series

GET HEALTHY

LifeWay | Men

Contents

How to Use This Study Guide	4
Can You Relate?	5
<hr/>	
SESSION 01	
Spiritual Integrity “Surviving the Storms”	6
<hr/>	
SESSION 02	
Mental Integrity “It All Starts in the Mind”	18
<hr/>	
SESSION 03	
Sexual Integrity “The Other Woman”	30
<hr/>	
SESSION 04	
Biblical Integrity “In One Ear and Out the Other”	42
<hr/>	
SESSION 05	
Behavioral Integrity “Judging by Appearances”	54
<hr/>	
SESSION 06	
Verbal Integrity “Loose Lips”	66
<hr/>	
SESSION 07	
Moral Integrity “The Gods of This World”	78
<hr/>	
SESSION 08	
Relational Integrity “Friendly but Friendless?”	90
<hr/>	
Group Covenant	102
Leader Guide	103
Group Directory	112

How to Use This Study Guide

Welcome to an eight-week journey into overcoming temptation. Before you get started, here is some helpful information about the different elements you'll encounter within the study:

KEY VERSES AND GOALS FOR GROWTH // Review these items as you prepare for each group meeting. They reveal the focus of the study for the week, will be referenced in Kenny's video message, and will be used in the Connect with the Word personal study time.

INTRODUCTION // This is designed to introduce your study for the week. You will want to read this before your group meets so you'll better understand the topic and the context for your time together.

PERSONAL TIME: CONNECT WITH THE WORD // Complete the Connect with the Word section before each small-group meeting. Consider this section your personal Bible study for the week.

GROUP TIME: REVIEW // The first question in this section is designed to provide you with an opportunity to talk about what God has been revealing to you in your personal time with Him during the past week. The second question is an icebreaker to help you ease into the study topic.

GROUP TIME: VIDEO TEACHING // This listening guide gives you an opportunity to fill in the blanks on important points as you view the video message from Kenny.

GROUP TIME: VIDEO FEEDBACK // This section is designed to facilitate follow-up discussion regarding what you heard from the video message and how you were effected.

GROUP TIME: CONNECT WITH THE GROUP // This portion of your weekly meeting will give you an opportunity to connect with the other men in your group by discussing truths from the Scriptures and the topic for the week and encouraging one another.

WRAP // This section serves as a conclusion to the group time and summarizes key points from your group meeting each week.

Can You Relate?

All men are tempted to compromise their integrity by yielding to unhealthy passions and desires. Yet not all men do. Some have learned the secret of living with undivided thoughts and actions reflecting beliefs. They know how to face temptation without giving in. Every man is tempted to:

- fold when hard times come;
- have an undisciplined thought life;
- give in to sexual temptation;
- fudge on issues of obedience;
- compare himself with and judge others;
- let loose with his tongue in anger;
- buy the lies of materialism; and
- live in isolation from other men.

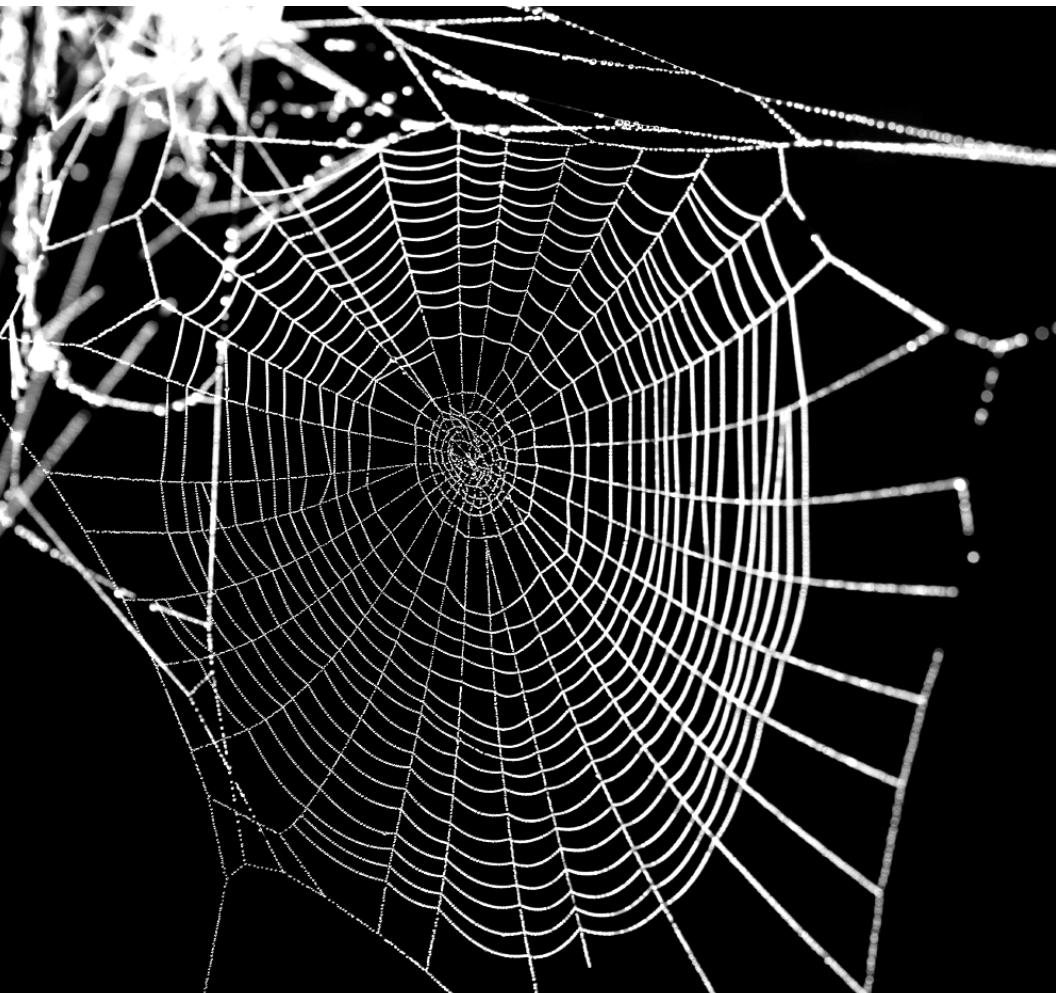
Dealing with these temptations is a matter of survival. No man can venture into a field of mines without taking precautions. Every God's man must know where the mines are located and learn how to diffuse them.

Our goal in this study is to stimulate personal reflection and honest dialogue. As you work through each session, look at your own life and ask yourself some hard questions. Complete honesty with yourself, with God, and with others will produce the best results.

In the sessions that follow, you will learn to deal with temptation in God's wisdom and strength. By taking God at His Word and applying what He says to your life, you will experience the benefits of an undivided commitment to Christ. You'll find you can live a life of integrity and deal with temptation in a God-honoring way.

Spiritual Integrity

“Surviving the Storms”



A man who survives the trials of life can in time become a man of great character. In fact, character grows strong during times of trial—especially when we choose to hang tough. No man likes trials. We don't go looking for them. We endure them because we have to, not because we want to. But while the hard times tempt us to fold or to try to escape, to give in and grow bitter, perseverance and prayer within our trials inevitably develop our character.

goals for growth

- Recognize that God allows trials in our lives to build character.
- Understand how to stand strong in the midst of trials.
- Commit to praying instead of complaining when faced with trials.

KEY VERSES

*2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,
3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let
endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and com-
plete, lacking in nothing. 5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask
of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will
be given to him. 6 But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for
the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the
wind. 7 For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything
from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.
9 But the brother of humble circumstances is to glory in his high posi-
tion; 10 and the rich man is to glory in his humiliation, because like
flowering grass he will pass away. 11 For the sun rises with a scorch-
ing wind and withers the grass; and its flower falls off and the beauty
of its appearance is destroyed; so too the rich man in the midst of his
pursuits will fade away. 12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under
trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life
which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

(James 1:2-12, NASB)

NOTES

CONNECT WITH THE WORD

THIS SECTION IS DESIGNED TO BE A PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY EXPERIENCE FOR YOU TO COMPLETE BEFORE YOUR SMALL-GROUP SESSION EACH WEEK. COME TO YOUR GROUP MEETING PREPARED TO SHARE YOUR RESPONSES AND PERSONAL APPLICATIONS. YOU MAY WANT TO MARK OR HIGHLIGHT ANY QUESTIONS THAT WERE PARTICULARLY MEANINGFUL TO YOU. BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR STUDY, READ THE SCRIPTURES ON PAGE 8.

1. To what kinds of trials do you think James refers in this passage? Why do you think he exhorts us to respond joyfully during times of trial or testing?

2. Describe how a joyful heart might help you in a difficult time. (Consider drawing a picture to illustrate.)

3. How does tested faith produce endurance? Describe a time in your life when you saw this truth at work.

4. How does responding to life's trials with a bad attitude, a complaining spirit, or by running from the situation equal a failure? Explain.

5. The word endure means “to hold out against.” What makes it possible to hold out against—or endure—a trial? Think of a trial you’ve faced or are facing. What helps you hold out against it in a godly way?
 6. According to verse 4, what is the purpose of joyfully enduring a trial to its end?
 7. For what should you pray in the midst of a trial (v. 5)? How might this help you overcome a hard situation?
 8. In verses 9-11, James contrasts humility (poverty) with pride (riches). How does remaining humble in the midst of a trial help you discover God’s purpose for you in it? How might God later use the experience?

REVIEW

What are your expectations of this study?

What about learning to overcome temptation most appeals to you? What difference do you hope it will make in your life?

VIDEO TEACHING



BELLOW YOU WILL FIND A LISTENING GUIDE THAT GIVES YOU AN OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW IMPORTANT POINTS AS YOU VIEW THE MESSAGE FROM KENNY. WE'LL UNPACK THIS INFORMATION TOGETHER AFTER THE VIDEO.

Watch video session 1: “Surviving the Storms” (9:49).

Pressure is to _____ what oxygen is to _____.

God wants you to use the pressure for _____.

God is _____ the missing pieces of your _____ in place through pressure.

God's _____ for you is in the pressures you experience.

IF YOU MISSED THIS WEEK'S VIDEO VISIT
LIFEWAY.COM/TEMPTATION TO GET CAUGHT UP.

VIDEO FEEDBACK

 Kenny contrasts the way the Enemy wants to use pressure in our lives with the outcome that God desires pressure to have. Explain the difference.

Share about a time in your life when you felt pressured and didn't respond to it well. How could you have acted differently? What can we do instead—as Kenny suggests—get excited about life's pressures?

CONNECT WITH THE GROUP

When Frank Brinner married his sweetheart, Patsy, he didn't have a clue that life would turn out the way it did. Early in their marriage, he enjoyed a successful career, two sons, and a vibrant faith in Christ. Who could ask for more?

Yet shortly into their marriage, the Brinners received the most devastating news of their lives. Patsy was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, and it would change things forever. Since that day twenty years ago, Frank has cared for his wife's needs on a daily basis. As her health has deteriorated, his care for her has become increasingly painstaking and emotionally draining.

Recently Frank talked with an old friend about a conversation he'd had with his wife. Jokingly Frank had told Patsy, "Honey, I've taken such good care of you that I have all the gray hair. You have none." They laughed together.

That exchange illustrates the upbeat, loving, sacrificial, and joy-filled attitude that has marked the past two decades of Frank's life. Refusing to grow bitter and miserable, he has chosen to deal with his trial joyfully. No man would ask for a trial like that. But sometimes such challenges come whether we like them or not. We don't get to choose our trials, but we do get to choose our responses to them.

- 1. In what ways can you relate to a trial like Frank's? How do you typically respond when faced with a daunting challenge?**
- 2. What are some harmful ways you have seen men respond to difficult personal situations?**
- 3. What's the difference between enduring a trial and experiencing joy in a trial? How do you think joy enables us to endure?**

4. What do you think is the basis of our joy?

Knowledge of who we are in Christ and knowing just what the Enemy is up to help us to confront trials with the right attitude.

5. According to James 1:2-4, what bottom-line benefits do we experience when we rejoice in our trials?

6. What do you think James expects us to do in order to stand under a trial that seems overwhelming?

The pressure that comes with temptation certainly puts us in a place where we must make a decision to either cave in or stand strong. Let's consider the possible spiritual outcomes of dealing with temptation.

7. During times of testing, how is “double-mindedness” revealed in our prayers?

8. In verses 9-12, James described being rich materially but poor spiritually. How do you think trials might help reverse this condition in a man’s life?

9. What kinds of trials might the men in your group experience? In what practical ways might you help one another?

WRAP

The Bible is clear: Your hardships are the Lord's instruments; He'll use them to make you into the best God's man you can be. It is never God's will for you to run from your pressures. So be God's man and lean into the pressure that the world brings.

Remember these key thoughts from this week's study:

- Temptation will occur in every man's life.
- The Enemy wants you to react emotionally to pressure.
- God wants to use temptation's pressure to make you stronger.
- When you embrace the pressure of temptation with the right attitude, God will teach you lessons that will shake the Enemy's kingdom.

PRAY TOGETHER

all men are tempted to compromise **NOT ALL MEN DO**

Be a man of integrity—a God's man. A God's man must learn the secret of being undivided between what he believes and how he actually thinks and lives. This man possesses integrity and makes the right choices. Through every trial a God's man gains new perspectives on the temptations he faces. The man that is after God's own heart cultivates new tools to help him overcome the cultural webs that not only ensnare but lead him astray. All men are tempted to compromise—God's man will not.

Temptation: Standing Strong Against Temptation is a study of the Book of James for men. This study will equip you to think clearly and choose wisely when dealing with temptation. Eight sessions include: Spiritual, Mental, Sexual, Biblical, Behavioral, Verbal, Moral, and Relational Integrity.



A **GET HEALTHY** resource from the **GET IN. GET HEALTHY.
GET STRONG. GET GOING.**
LifeWay Men Strategy.

Visit LifeWay.com/Men for more information



Kenny Luck is president and founder of Every Man Ministries and co-author of the bestselling *Every Man, God's Man*. Kenny is also the men's pastor at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, CA.

TEMPTATION
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HELPS break the Enemy's power of temptation by confronting with God's truth

ENCOURAGES men to victory through accountability

GETS MEN HEALTHY as they follow a spiritual pathway to Christlikeness



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