

# Temptation

## Biblical Material: Proverbs 1.10-19

'When bad people tempt you - don't give in. If they try to get you to join in the wrong they are doing, refuse. Stay away from them. People like that are only setting a trap for themselves. People who live by violence get hurt in the end.'

God does not punish people for what they might have done

I can resist anything but temptation

Jesus was tempted just as we are but never did any wrong

*A Christian who lived in the twelfth century.*

*Anonymous*

*The Bible*

### You will need:

- Two paper speech or thought bubbles.
- A large felt-tipped pen and paper.

### Introduction

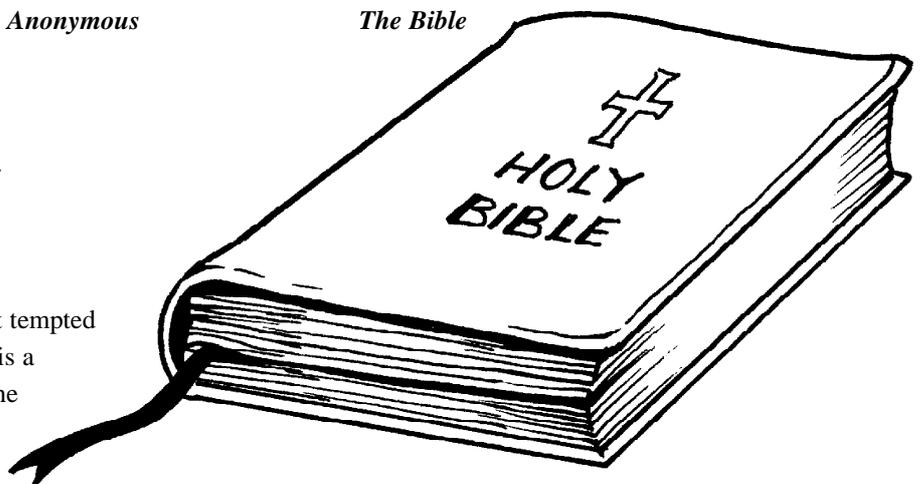
Talk about the sort of things people get tempted to do. When people are tempted, there is a battle going on inside. Imagine someone finding a purse full of money. One half of them might say, 'Go on, take it: no one will know.' The other might say, 'Find out who owns it.' Write these or other suggestions by the pupils in the bubbles. Pupils might like to turn this into an impromptu sketch. One pupil can be the person who finds the purse, two others can be the arguments for and against handing it in.

### Core Material

Read the Biblical Material. This part of the Book of Proverbs advises people not to be tempted to join in violence. People who are violent or bully others are like a person digging a pit and then falling in it. Violence not only harms the victims, it also harms the people who are involved in it. There is nothing wrong with being tempted - everybody is tempted. The Bible says Jesus was tempted but didn't give in to it. It is giving in to temptation that is the problem, not temptation itself. Look at the sayings about temptation. Ask pupils what they mean.

### Prayer/Reflection

Write TEMPT in large letters down the edge of a piece



of paper. Write, then read, each sentence, line by line. In-between each sentence, ask pupils to reflect on its meaning.

**Tempted:** *it's part of being human.*

**Everyone:** *it happens to everyone at any age - adults are tempted as well as children.*

**More:** *the Bible says temptation is not more than we can bear. With God's help we can resist.*

**Prayer:** *Christians ask God's help to resist when they pray.*

**Test:** *temptation tests us: we only know we really value truth when we are tempted to lie.*

**Encouraged:** *other people can encourage us to resist temptation.*

**Defeated:** *it can be defeated.*

*When we are tempted to join in wrong, Lord, give us the strength to resist.*

*Note.* For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.