



Getting Off the Hook

Series: Hooked

Scripture: James 1:12-15; Romans 7:21-24

Every temptation competes with a greater invitation from God.

2 responses when we've taken the bait and its hook:

Natural Response:

- start feeling _____
 - Guilt addresses our actions; shame _____ our _____.
- leads to feeling _____, feeling _____, and feeling _____
 - Romans 7:21-24

Godly Response:

- _____ it
 - to God, _____ is _____.
 - Romans 3:23
 - 1 John 1:9
 - Your option toward freedom begins with _____.
- _____ for _____
- _____ God's _____
 - Romans 5
 - Romans 6:14
- _____ godliness.
 - God's grace doesn't just _____ your _____; it _____ your future.
 - 1 Timothy 6:11

Your _____ is not your _____.

Memory Verse:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." — 1 John 1:9

Start Talking.

- Have you ever gotten hooked on a bad habit, or poor decision that was difficult to break? What made it so hard to get free?
- When you were growing up, how was guilt typically handled in your family—ignored, punished, talked about, or something else?
- What part of the fishing illustration connects with you most: the bait, the hook, or the struggle to get free once hooked?

Start Thinking:

- Read James 1:12–15. What does this passage teach us about where temptation comes from and where it ultimately leads?
- Why do you think Satan often follows temptation with shame?
- What's the difference between guilt and shame? Why is that distinction important for Christians?
- Read Romans 7:21–25. What do you learn from Paul's struggle with sin and his cry for rescue?

Start Sharing:

- Why do you think people often find it easier to hide their sin than to confess it?
- Which step in the godly response is hardest for you: Acknowledge your sin, Ask for forgiveness, Accept God's grace or Pursue godliness? Why?
- Have you ever experienced the freedom that comes from confession? What happened?
- What are some common lies that shame tries to convince people to believe?
- Is there an area where you find yourself repeatedly fighting the same temptation? What makes that particular "bait" attractive?

Start Praying:

- Read 1 John 1:9. What encouragement do you find in this promise?
- Where do you need God's grace most right now?

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week

- What practical step can you take this week to pursue godliness rather than merely avoid temptation?
- Is there a trusted Christian friend, mentor, or accountability partner you need to invite into a struggle you've been facing alone?
- What habits help you keep your focus on God rather than on the "bait" that tempts you?

Challenge for the Week:

Identify one area where you are most vulnerable to temptation or where you have been carrying guilt, shame, or spiritual defeat.

Each day: **Acknowledge** it honestly before God. **Ask** for His forgiveness and help. **Accept** His grace by thanking Him for His forgiveness rather than replaying your failure. **Pursue** one positive step toward godliness. (Scripture reading, prayer, worship, serving, or reaching out to a trusted believer).