

## Cell Group Lesson: The Enemy

**Ice Breaker:** *If you had a time machine that would work only once, what point in history would you visit and why?*

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**Facilitator's Comments:** There are many titles for the Devil: "Lucifer" comes from the Latin word *luciferos*, which means "light bearer", "Satan" means "the Accuser." He's also called tempter, thief, the adversary, Angel of Light, the Dragon, Prince of the devils, the Prince of this world and so on. Let's start our lesson by reading why we are so important to Satan, in our 1<sup>st</sup> Commentary...

### Read

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Commentary:**

In Acts 9:3, it reads: "*As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.* <sup>4</sup> *Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"*"<sup>(NKJV)</sup> Jesus had already left the earth, but He said to Saul, "why are you persecuting **Me**?" Satan took note that when you persecute and attack the sons and daughters of God, it's like persecuting Jesus himself. Satan doesn't care about us; he wants to ruin our lives because it's the only way that he can try and get back at God.

**Facilitator's Comments:** Let's read about the ways that Satan tries to influence our lives, starting with Rev. 12:10...

### Read

**Rev. 12:10** - "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the **accuser of our brethren** is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. "

**Question:** What does Satan try to accuse us of?

**Answer:** Satan tries to bring back to our minds, things and actions that we have been forgiven of. He tries to tell us that we are not forgiven and can't be used again by the Lord.

**Facilitator's Comments:** Satan never 'plays fair', he is evil...let's continue reading Luke 4:1

### Read

**Luke 4:1** - Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. <sup>3</sup> And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." <sup>4</sup> But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, '*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.*'"<sup>(NKJV)</sup>

**Question:** When did the Devil start to tempt Christ?

**Answer:** When Jesus was hungry and weak.

**Question:** Why does Satan attack us when we are weak...?

**Answer:** We are vulnerable and our defenses are down and we may make a mistake and make a bad decision.

**Question:** How did Jesus handle Satan's attack?

**Answer:** With the Word of God

**Facilitator's Comments:** Let's read the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commentary:

**Read**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Commentary:** It says in John 8:44 that, "...*He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*" (NIV)  
Satan's greatest trick isn't to get us to do wrong, we can do that on our own, his greatest trick is getting us to believe and feel that the **wrong** we are doing is **right**.

**Question:** How does Satan try to get us to rationalize doing wrong or sinning?

**Answer:** Satan will say we deserve to be happy, so go ahead and do what we want. He'll try to get us to believe that life isn't fair, so we are 'owed' what we know we shouldn't have. He may also try to get you to believe that what you're about to do is a 'small' sin and not important.

**Facilitator's Comments:** The next two verses shows us that we can never let our 'guard' down, in our walk with the Lord....Let's start by reading 1 Peter 5:8 and than Luke 4:13...

**Read**

**1 Peter 5:8** - Be self-controlled and **alert**. Your enemy the **devil prowls** around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (NIV)

**Luke 4:13** - When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an **opportune time**. (NIV)

**Question:** What do these two verses show us about the Devil's ways?

**Answer:** We are told to be "**alert**" because Satan is consistently on the 'prowl' for victims and that he's patient and keeps seeking for the right or opportune time to strike our souls.

**Question:** How does Satan try to find the right time to strike at us?

**Answer:** He watches us and looks for our weak spots and looks for a chance to exploit them.

**Facilitator's Comments:** We don't have to fear the devil because God has power over Satan. Let's read about it in Hebrews 2:14...

**Read**

**Hebrews 2:14** - Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— (NIV)

**Question:** How did Christ sharing in our humanity destroy the devil?

**Answer:** Because of His humanity, His sacrifice on the Cross destroyed Satan's power over death. Also in His humanity, Christ was tempted in all areas and did not sin. So now He's able to help us in every temptation that comes into our lives.

**Facilitator's Comments:** Let's read more about Satan's attempts to tempt us by reading 1 Corinthians 10:13

**Read**

**1 Corinthians 10:13** - No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*. (NKJV)

**Question:** Why is it hard sometimes to take "*the way of escape*" when we are tempted?

**Answer:** Because our flesh wants to be satisfied, which, if we are weak, can cause us to rationalize our activities and not seek for God's grace and His way out of the potentially devastating situation.

**Facilitator's Comments:** Another reason to not fear the devil is that he losses at the end of time.. as stated in Rev. 20:10...let's read about it...

### Read

**Revelation 20:10** - The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

**Facilitator's Comment:** The following verses show us what we can do to overcome Satan in our lives.

### Read

**James 4:7** - Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the **devil**, and he will flee from you. (KJV)

**Question:** What does it mean to "submit yourselves therefore to God?"

**Answer:** When we submit to God's desire for us to pray, read our Bible and fast, we will have the power to 'resist' the devil and then he will flee.

**Facilitator's Comments:** The Devil does not want us to submit ourselves to the Lord. Because he believes in the power of prayer. Let's read our 3<sup>rd</sup> Commentary:

### Read

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Commentary:**

Samuel Chadwich once said: *The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.* Satan knows and believes in the power of prayer, fasting and reading the Word, that's why he works so hard to stop us from doing anything of these soul-strengthening activities on a consistent basis.

**Question:** How does Satan try to stop us from praying, fasting, and reading our Bibles?

**Answer:** He tries to get us busy doing other things. He tempts us to procrastinate and say 'we'll do it tomorrow.'

**Facilitator's Comments:** God has given us instructions, in Ephesians 6:13, as to how to stand when the devil attacks...let read it...

### Read

**Ephesians 6:13** - Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God <sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (NIV)

**Question:** How does the armor of God protect us:

**Answer:** By protecting every part of our mind, soul and spirit from attack.

**Facilitator's Comments:** We are fully equipped with God's grace and armor to withstand Satan and to grow and thrive in our walk with God. Let's read our final commentary for this lesson...

**Read**

**4<sup>th</sup> Commentary:** It's been said that if you "*Give Satan an inch and he'll be a ruler.*" We don't have to fear Satan. We need not be ignorant of his ways and devices. We do not have to live bound by Satan because Jesus has set us free. We can always lift our hearts and spirit by remembering the words of victory in 1 John 4:4, when it says: "*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*" We have the power, in the name of Jesus, to rebuke the devil out of every part of our lives..

**Facilitator's Final Comments:** Let's pray and thank God for the victory over Satan that was won on the Cross. And thank Him because His blood and power can break any and every chain of bondage that the devil could ever try to bind us with.

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