

Know Your Enemy

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Matthew 13:37-39 He answered, "The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels."

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness.

Isaiah 14:12-15 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.

Luke 4:5 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.

Ephesians 2:1-2 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Luke 11:15 But some of them said, "By Beelzebub, the prince of demons, he is driving out demons."

As declared Christians we have changed sides in the war of Good vs. Evil. We can be better prepared if we know what and whom to defend against.

In Ephesians 6:12 Paul explains that our struggle is not against

_____ and _____ but is against:

And _____.



In a parable (Matthew 13: 37-39) Jesus explained that our enemy is _____.

Contrary to common beliefs Satan does not appear as some kind of sinister, sulfur breathing monster. 2 Corinthians 2:14 says he looks more like an:

_____.

Who else masquerades as a *servant of righteousness*?



The prophet Isaiah speaks about the Devil as the "Morning Star", once revered as the head angel, the most beautiful and the most powerful. Quoting the devils own words, what did Isaiah say was the devils sin? What was his punishment?

When he tempted, (Luke 4:5) Jesus, Satan revealed that he had been given _____, over all the kingdoms of the world. The devil is

often referred to as : _____.

(Ephesians 2:1)



Where is *the kingdom of the air*?

In Luke 11:15 Satan is called the _____.



Job 1:6-12 One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

1John 3:8 He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Matthew 4:6-7 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' "" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Jas 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

His Limitation:

Satan is **NOT** the opposite of God. Read Job 1:6-12. From this passage it is obvious that Satan is totally under the _____ of God.

Satan does not possess any of the characteristics of God.

From Job 1:7 we see that the devil can not be everywhere at once (omnipresent) like God is.

The enemy is not "omnipotent" (all-powerful) like God. Where does Satan get his power and authority from?

Satan does not know everything (omniscient) like God does. He would have known the outcome of his actions.

He can not read our minds or know our hearts like God does.

As Christians, already possessed by the Holy Spirit, he can not make us do things without our consent. He can trick us into doing things.

Jesus conquered Satan (1 John 3:8)

The Devil's main goal is to separate us from God. But this won't work (Romans 8:38).

The Devil's demise (final end) in the lake of fire is sure (Revelation 20:10).

Our Defense:

When the devil tempted Jesus in Matthew 4:1-11 he tried to trick Jesus by quoting scripture. How did Jesus respond (Matthew 4:6-7)?

-If we are going to use scripture as a defense like Jesus did we must know scripture.

In James 4:7 James says we can resist the devil and he will go away.

However, before we can do that, what must we do? _____.

What does it mean to *submit*?

Paul also uses the analogy of "Putting on Armor" in Ephesians 6:10-17.

Would armor be good to have? How do you get *spiritual* armor?

What can we know about Satan according to Paul in 2 Corinthians 2:10-11?

Lesson Plan: Know Your Enemy

The Goal of this lesson: The Barna Research Group, in its 1999 survey entitled “Third Millennium Teens” found that 65% of Christian young people do not believe that Satan is a real entity. The goal of this lesson is to give young Christians some Biblical background about our enemy. We can learn a lot about Satan from the Bible. Once the enemy is exposed he loses a lot of his ability to trick us into sin.

Leading the Lesson:

We begin the lesson by considering the war between good and evil in the world. I have a portable stereo (boom-box) that has a remote control. I demonstrate the ability of the remote to operate the device using “unseen” infrared light. We discuss the possibility of unseen entities and the Bible’s assertion that the Devil exists. For an illustration with boys discuss how football teams review their opponents strategies to help win the game.

We continue looking into what the Bible shows as the Devil’s origins, source of authority, limitations, and goals. Many kids have heard bits and pieces of this information but this lesson will strengthen their beliefs. Do not shy away from telling them that God has, for some reason we can not understand, given Satan his authority on earth right now. See my lesson on Sovereignty for a more extensive handling of this topic. It is also important to reassure the kids that the Devil can not overpower them because the Holy Spirit is in their hearts.

Satan constantly tries to convince us, using the “things of this world”, that God does not love us and we should turn our backs on Him. The word *submit* means *to yield oneself to the power or authority of another*, in this case God.

Summary:

Though not written in the lesson you can conclude the study by reading Romans 8:28-39. Concentrate on verse 38, “*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” You might consider having a poster or banner made of this verse for a permanent decoration of your youth room.

Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Check how things have turned out from the previous weeks concerns. One youth leader I know regularly lights a candle and places it in the center of the group. They hold hands and pray together. Through this the kids voice their concerns and fears and are greatly comforted. Give the kids some time to pray as well.

Follow up: If your group needs it follow this lesson with my lesson on “Sovereignty”