**Study Series: Spiritual Warfare**

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**Lesson Title: “The Nature of Our Enemy (Cont’d.)” (pp. 130-140)**

November 15, 2020 Session 11

**The main point of this lesson is:** In addition to being the adversary and deceiver, Satan is also the tempter and hinderer of humanity.

**Focus on this goal:** To help adults set out strategies to neutralize Satan’s efforts at tempting and hindering them.

**Key Bible Passage:** 1 John 2:15-17

Before the Session

1. **Label** five sheets of paper with the following: Most Tempting Junk Food, Most Tempting Time-waster, Most Tempting Purchase, Most Tempting Dessert, and Law You’re Most Tempted to Break. (Step 1)

2. **Hang** a large piece of paper on the wall. (Step 2)

3. If you have a photo album from your childhood, **bring** it. (Step 6)

During the Session

**Step 1. Introduction / Discussion Starter**

**Display** the five papers around the room.

As learners arrive, **instruct** them to write one item on each sheet. (**Encourage** them to NOT take this too seriously.)

**Gather** the papers and **read** some of the answers.

**Add** your own answers.

**Say:** We may joke from time to time about being tempted with wasting time or eating unhealthy foods; today’s focus, though, is on true temptation from Satan and how it hinders us not only as individuals but as a body of believers.

**Step 2. Day One – Chip Off the Old Block**

**Invite a volunteer to read** 1 John 2:15-17.

**Direct attention** to “world” (v. 15), **explaining** it is the same word used in John 3:16.

**Ask:** Are we to not love the world that God so loved?

**Explain** that the Greek word has several meanings, including the inhabitants of the world (John 3:16) and worldly affairs and temporal pleasures (1 John 2:15).

**Point out** that God so loved the people; but we are not to love things that pull us from God’s glory.

**Divide** your large piece of paper in half with a vertical line, labeling the left side Of the World and the right side Of God.

**Use** the information from 1 John 2:15-17, as well as the text from Day One (p. 131), **to list** a variety of things that belong to each category.

**Step 3. Day Two – Satan Is the Tempter**

**Read** the Day Two paragraph (p. 132) beginning, “However, Satan does tempt ….”

**Draw the parallel** between our faith and our temptation, helping learners understand that what we believe about God can help us in our awareness of and defense against Satan’s temptations.

**Use** Day Two (pp. 132-133) **to explain** the three basic categories of temptation in 1 John 2:15-17.

**Invite volunteers to read** 2 Peter 2:9-10 and 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.

**Ask:** What hope do we get from these verses?

**Point out** that, though Satan is secretive and deceptive, God gives us the power to identify and escape from Satan’s temptations.

**Step 4. Day Three – Satan Is a Hinderer, Part 1**

**Read** the Day Three opening paragraph (p. 134).

**Say:** You may have heard the saying: “If Satan can’t make you bad, he’ll make you busy.”

**Share** a time when you weren’t living in sin, but you were living distractedly.

**Invite volunteers to briefly share** similar experiences.

**Ask:** Have you felt God calling you to witness to someone, serve at church, or minister to a particular need only to find yourself distracted?

**Challenge learners** to consider their schedules, commitments, focus, and stewardship: How are you handling the responsibilities and calling God has placed on you?

**Using** the last two paragraphs of Day Three (p. 136), **explain** that we can trust God’s sovereignty in instances of closed doors as well as spiritual warfare.

**Say:** Our responsibility is to live in obedience to God, seeking His will and trusting He will prepare the way He wants us to go.

**Step 5. Day Four – Satan Is a Hinderer, Part 2**

**State:** Satan is good at distracting us in our time management, whether we’re free spirited and spontaneous or strict list-makers. **Share** which of the two you tend toward.

**Invite a few volunteers** to do the same.

**Ask** one or two from each camp: How might your tendency toward [spontaneity/strict management] be a distraction from being ready to respond to the opportunities God places in your life?

**Use** Day Four information (pp. 137-138) to **describe** how both tendencies cause misuse of time and focus, particularly when Satan’s distractions push us away from God’s plan.

**Invite a volunteer to read** Proverbs 3:5-6, **discussing** as a group how believers can truly trust God with their plans and personality.

**Step 6. Day Five – Satan Is a Hinderer, Part 3**

Briefly **display** a photo album.

**Point out** that the photo taker is rarely in the picture.

**Ask** how photos have changed today. (Selfies and attention-seeking photos tend to be more prominent.)

**Read** the sentence (p. 139) from the first Day Five paragraph that begins: “Satan causes our minds ….”

**Using** the information in Day Five (pp. 138-140), **point out** that God’s will is not focused on us, but on Him.

**Read** the Day Five margin/pull quote (p. 139).

**Ask:** Can you think of a time in your life when Satan convinced you your safety, comfort, or personal will trumped God’s call?

**Step 7. Live Out the Lesson**

**Encourage learners** to analyze their spiritual health by silently reflecting on the following:

1. How am I choosing to love the world over God?
2. How am I indulging in an immoral, selfish, or too-busy lifestyle?
3. How is my time management keeping me from living for Jesus?
4. In what ways am I too focused on myself?

**Text or email** the questions to each learner.