**Study Series: Spiritual Warfare**

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**Lesson Title: “Satan’s Favorite Fiery Darts” (pp. 143-153)**

November 22, 2020 Session 12

**The main point of this lesson is:** Though Satan has many weapons with which to attack us, we must recognize his favorite and prepare for them.

**Focus on this goal:** To help adults assess which weapons Satan regularly deploys against them and how to utilize the shield of faith as protection against that weapon.

**Key Bible Passage:** Ephesians 6:16

Before the Session

1. **Hang** four large pieces of paper around the room.
2. **Label** them: Favorite Ice Cream Flavor, Favorite Vacation Spot, Favorite Movie, Favorite Book.
3. **Have another sheet** labeled Satan’s Favorite Weapons out of sight.
4. **Place** some markers at each paper. (Steps 1-7)

During the Session

**Step 1. Introduction / Discussion Starter**

**Direct attention** to the “favorites” papers hanging around the room.

**Encourage learners** to add one or more of their favorites to each sheet.

**Briefly spotlight** some entries.

**Say:** Over the past few weeks, we’ve discovered how Satan’s temptations affect our faith and lives.

**Reveal** the sheet labeled Satan’s Favorite Weapons.

**Explain** that today’s session will address and prepare us to resist Satan’s favorite weapons.

**Step 2. Day One – Unforgiveness**

**Invite a volunteer to read** 2 Corinthians 2:5-11.

**Use** Day One information (p. 143) to **connect** how Satan takes advantage of us with unforgiveness.

**Read** the Day One margin/pull quote (p. 144).

**Say:** We think unforgiveness protects us from future hurt, but it’s actually selfish.

**Brainstorm** ways unforgiveness harms relationships, faith, or emotional health.

**Share** a time you thought you had forgiven someone, only to realize later you had simply suppressed the situation.

**Ask:**

1. How can we enjoy the freedom that comes with forgiveness?
2. How can we better focus on God’s forgiveness in order to obediently forgive others?

**Add** unforgiveness to the chart of Satan’s weapons. (**Repeat** for each of the remaining weapons.)

**Step 3. Day Two – Anger and Doubt**

**Invite a volunteer to read** Ephesians 4:26-31.

**Say:** We might like that God doesn’t outright forbid anger; however, He does insist it be removed from us.

**Stress** that we will get angry but need to be aware to not let it cause sin or create bitterness.

**Ask** how unforgiveness can lead to anger.

**Use** information from the paragraph (p. 146) that begins “You don’t have to ….” to **point out** anger can take different forms.

**Enlist a volunteer to read** Genesis 3:1-4.

**Say:** Here we see Satan’s first weapon used against a human in Scripture: doubt.

**Ask** what doubt means in the context of Christianity and how we combat it.

**Read** Ephesians 6:16 and **ask:** What does it look like to have faith as a shield?

**Step 4. Day Three – Pride**

**Ask:**

1. What makes you proud of your kids?
2. Of your work?
3. What might make us spiritually prideful?

**Ask a volunteer to read** 2 Corinthians 12:6-10.

**Point out** that Satan uses pride because we take our eyes off God and His blessings and glory and instead shine the spotlight on ourselves.

**Read** the Day Three paragraph (pp. 148-149) that begins, “We are so vulnerable,” and **engage learners** in considering how our current world actually encourages us to be prideful.

**Use** Day Three information (p. 149) **to help learners** understand that pseudo-humility is taking pride in humility, wallowing in low self-esteem, or choosing to live in defeat instead of the victory given to us by Christ.

**Encourage learners** to live in joy and victory, looking to God and His strength in every situation.

**Step 5. Day Four – Unholy Living**

**Say:** As followers of Christ, we’re called to imitate Him in how we live. When we do, we live in holiness, separated from worldly pursuits. What, then, does unholy living include?

**Invite a volunteer to read** 1 Peter 2:12.

**Ask:**

1. How might holy living and pride go hand in hand?
2. How should holy living keep us away from pride?
3. What happens among “Gentiles” (unbelievers) as a result of our holy living?
4. What unholy characteristics mark our world today?

**As each characteristic is mentioned,** **ask:** So how do we choose to live holy in light of that? (For example, in politically charged animosity we choose to avoid arguments but seek to serve others.)

**Encourage learners** to choose to smile, forgive, help, and be honest.

**Step 6. Day Five – Creating Dissension**

**Say:** Like Hatfields and McCoys, certain groups just don’t get along.

**Ask** if learners are okay with ongoing conflict in certain areas of their lives.

**Read** the Day Five opening sentences (p. 151), concluding with “mutual submission and respect.”

**Ask** to whom we are to submit.

**Use** Day Five information (pp. 151-153) to **stress** we are to submit to governmental authorities, church authorities, and have mutual submissiveness to other believers.

**Invite a volunteer to read** Romans 12:1-3,14,15,18,21.

**Read** the paragraph (p. 153) that begins, “The picture of submissiveness.”

**Brainstorm** how both pride and dissension can perpetuate the other.

**Step 7. Live Out the Lesson**

**Review** your list of Satan’s Favorite Weapons.

**Say:** The first step is being aware; today we identified weapons to be on the lookout for.

**Challenge learners** to practice identifying Satan’s weapons for what they really are rather than excusing them or minimizing their effect on our faith and everyday walk with Jesus.

**Close with prayer.** **Thank** God for His Word that gives us insight into our enemy and his weapons.