**Study Series: Spiritual Warfare**

Author: Jerry Rankin

**Lesson Title: “The Nature of Our Enemy” (pp. 116-127)**

November 8, 2020 Session 10

**The main point of this lesson is:** Satan is a fallen angel who has made himself to be the adversary of humanity and is not to be trusted.

**Focus on this goal:** To help adults be alert for the deceptive manner in which Satan opposes humanity.

**Key Bible Passage:** Revelation 12:7-10

Before the Session

1. **Bring** two large index cards. **Label** one Alert and Aware and the other Panicked. (Step 1)

2. **Bring** a jar with its lid. **Label** it thoughts. (Step 6)

During the Session

**Step 1. Introduction / Discussion Starter**

**Mention** a situation that calls for awareness but sometimes leads to panic.

**Show** the “Alert and Aware” card.

**Ask** what an alert awareness without over-reacting would look like.

**Show** the “Panicked” card.

**Ask** what a panicked response might look like.

**Brainstorm** other issues, **pointing out** the difference between alert and panicked responses.

**Say:** Considering our focus when it comes to Satan: are we aware of his nature and his tactics or are we panicked that he is behind everything negative that happens?

**Step 2. Day One – Satan Is a Fallen Angel**

**Invite volunteers to read** Isaiah 14:12-14; Genesis 3:14-15; and Revelation 12:7-9.

**Say:** This is the bulleted version of Satan’s earthly existence: he wanted the glory that belongs only to God. Satan and his angels fought against God’s angels and were thrown to earth. After man’s first sin, God promised Satan’s head would be crushed.

**Ask:** What are some unbiblical beliefs about Satan?

**Encourage** learners to believe what Scripture says about him, seeing God’s ultimate power and sovereignty rather than the false belief He struggles against Satan.

**Add** any new descriptions of Satan to the list you started last week; continue this throughout the session.

**Read** the paragraph (pp. 117-118) that begins, “The reality is …” as well as the one following.

**Engage learners** in considering how we might reflect Satan when we choose a self-centered life.

**Step 3. Day Two – Satan Is an Adversary, Part 1**

**Say:** If we were to characterize Satan in one word, it would be adversary. He opposes anything that would glorify God. However, he will not ultimately succeed.

**Invite volunteers to read** Colossians 2:14-15 and Hebrews 2:14.

**Ask:** If Satan knows he is defeated, why does he still attack?

**Read** the paragraph (p. 119) that begins, “Basically it’s about ….”

**Draw attention** to “he seeks to embarrass God” (p. 120).

**Say:** We’re not just injuring ourselves when we choose to disobey God; we’re walking right into the trap Satan would love for us to step into: embarrassing God.

**Share** a stronghold of sin you once struggled with and how you overcame it.

**Encourage** learners to give their own lives a firm look and do the same.

**Step 4. Day Three – Satan Is an Adversary, Part 2**

**Invite volunteers to read** 2 Corinthians 4:4 from different translations.

**Point out** that minds of “unbelievers” are blinded.

**Ask:** How were you blinded to the truth of hope and love of Jesus before your salvation?

**Invite a volunteer to read** Acts 26:18.

**Encourage** learners to mark this verse in their Bibles as a powerful word to pray over lost friends.

**Read** the Day Three paragraph (p. 122) that begins, “Satan is deceptive ….”

**Use** these words as a reminder of the importance of daily Bible study and the power of speaking God’s truth regularly in our own lives.

**Step 5. Day Four – Satan Is a Deceiver & a Liar, Part 1**

**Invite a volunteer to read** 2 Corinthians 11:14-15.

**Say:** Satan and his servants are disguised; they look like good, righteous beings but lead people astray.

**Discuss** different ways in which people are deceived into thinking evil is good and mistaking wisdom for folly. (**Use** information from the first Day Four paragraph, p. 123.)

**Briefly point** to the concept of protecting personal time. (**See**, “We would not think …” p. 124.)

**Share** a time when you boldly protected personal time to the detriment of your testimony, family, or spiritual life.

**Say:** This is one example of how Satan uses a socially accepted norm to pull us away from God’s plan. We must know and believe God’s Word and His Spirit, trusting even our daily annoyances to His glory.

**Step 6. Day Five – Satan Is a Deceiver & a Liar, Part 2**

**Read** 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.

**Share** a time your thoughts led you from devotion to Christ.

**Hold up** the “thoughts” jar.

**Remove** the lid and **pretend to “catch”** your thought in it.

**Say:** When we find our thoughts wandering, it’s our job to stop them, analyze them, and hold them up to the truth of God’s Word.

**Engage the group** in considering ways to pray Scripture over our thoughts in order to see the truth concerning them.

**Direct attention** to the Day Five paragraph (pp. 125-126) that begins, “Do you realize …” and **discuss** different warnings in the Bible not to be deceived.

**Read** the Day Five margin/pull quote (p. 126).

**Step 7. Live Out the Lesson**

**Ask:** How are we, as brothers and sisters in Christ, able to help each other when we’re deceived?

**Encourage** learners to stay in contact with each other, fellowshipping regularly, and sharing struggles as well as victories, in order that the Spirit may lead us to speak truth into situations where Satan may be deceiving.

**Close with prayer, asking** God to help each person use His Word effectively against Satan.