

Study Series: When We Say Father

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 Lesson Title: “Deliver Us from Evil” (pp. 131-141)

Session 11

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The main point of this lesson is: The devil is real, evil, and active in encouraging sin and we can only avoid his efforts by the power of God.

Focus on this goal: To help adults acknowledge their vulnerability to the devil by seeking God’s deliverance from him.

Key Bible Passage: Matthew 6:13

Before the Session

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask participants what they think are the top war movies of all time.

Evaluate what makes a good war movie.

Ask: *How is every Christian’s life like a war movie? What will it take to win battles?*

Read the main point of this lesson statement (p. 142).

Declare: That is why Jesus taught us to pray for God’s deliverance and protection.

Guide the group to recite in unison the phrase from Matthew 6:13 printed at the beginning of Day One (p. 131).

Step 2. Day 1 – The Protection of the Prayer/Recognize the Sinister Person of Evil, Part 1

**Ask:** *Can you win a war if you don’t recognize you have an enemy or know what he’s like? Explain.*

**Explain** our enemy is not just “evil,” but the “evil one.”

**Note** Jesus taught us to pray what He prayed for us; **read** John 17:15.

**Invite** a volunteer to read 1 Peter 5:8.

**Consider** why the devil seeks to destroy believers.

**Explain** Days One – Three detail specific things to recognize about this “sinister minister of evil” (p. 131).

**Encourage** adults to identify from Day One (pp. 132-133) the first thing we must recognize about Satan and explain why.

**Discuss** Day One, activity 1 (p. 132; in Rev. 9:11, “Abaddon” and “Apollyon” are the Hebrew and Greek words for “destroyer” or “destruction”).

**Ask** a volunteer to read the last paragraph of Day One (p. 132-133).

**Invite** responses to Day One, activity 2 (p. 133).

Step 3. Day 2 – Recognize the Sinister Person of Evil, Part 2

**Request** adults identify the position of our enemy (p. 133).

**Read** Revelation 16:14 (Day Two, p. 133) and **request** the group determine Satan’s agenda.

**Ask:** *How might Satan’s agenda cause you to look at politics differently? How can it compel us to pray for world leaders?*

**Invite** a volunteer to read 2 Corinthians 4:4.

**Determine** what we can learn about our enemy from this verse.

**Invite** responses to Day Two, activity 2 (p. 134).

**Read** John 12:31-32 and 14:30.

**Lead** a discussion with: *Why don’t we need to be dismayed by Satan’s position of authority? Why shouldn’t we flippantly dismiss Satan even if we’re not dismayed by him?*

**Evaluate** whether God created the devil.

**Ask:** *If everything God does and creates is good, why does Satan even exist as the evil one? What is Satan’s purpose in waging war against God and His people?*

Step 4. Day 3 - Recognize the Sinister Person of Evil, Part 3

**Ask:** *Who do you think is a more dangerous enemy—one who is overtly hostile or a spy who lies and deceives? Why is that? Which kind of enemy is Satan?*

**State** the great deceiver uses devices, or schemes, according to 2 Corinthians 2:11, and lays out traps and snares according to 2 Timothy 2:26.

**Ask** how animals get lured into traps and how that might relate to Satan luring us into his traps.

**Invite** a volunteer to read the margin/pull quotes in Day Three (p. 135, 136).

**Discuss** Day Three, activity 1 (p. 136), **adding** to the discussion with remarks from Day Three content (pp. 135-137).

**Discuss** Day Three, activity 2 (p. 137).

**Guide** the group to review all they have discovered about this sinister person of evil.

**Ask:** *Why is it so essential we recognize this about the devil?*

Step 5. Day 4 – Realize the Seductive Power of Evil

**Request** a volunteer read James 1:13-15.

**Analyze** how we are to understand the prayer, “Lead us not into temptation” in light of James 1:13.

**Explain** Jesus was not teaching us to pray for God to not tempt us (because He can’t), but that He would protect us from being led into temptation by our own desires. We must recognize the power of evil is seductive and pray against it.

**Invite** responses to Day Four, activity 1 (p. 138).

**Invite** a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 10:13.

**Ask:** *How does this give you hope even as you recognize the seductive power of evil? How can these verses prompt us to pray?*

**Request** adults raise a hand if they have sinned, asked forgiveness, then committed that same sin again (and again and again).

**Ask** the author’s question (p. 138): *“Why is it we keep getting knocked down?”*

**Assert** we must pray for deliverance from evil every day just as we pray for daily bread.

Step 6. Day 5 – Rely on the Sovereign Protection from Evil

**Ask** why it’s not wise to focus on the headlights of oncoming traffic when driving at night. (We steer toward what we focus on.)

**Ask:** *How might a study like this cause us to focus on Satan? How might it lead us to fear him?*

**Relate** from the first paragraph of Day Five (p. 140) the antidote for focusing on Satan.

**Evaluate** why the devil should be afraid of Christians rather than Christians being afraid of him.

**Discuss** Day Five, activity 2 (p. 141).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

**Read** from Day Five (p. 141), “You don’t pray for a victory; you pray from the victory.”

**Analyze** what that means.

**Urge** adults to daily acknowledge their vulnerability to the devil by praying for God’s deliverance from him and do so from a position of victory.

**Close in prayer.**

After the Session

