

Study Series: Live No Lies

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Lesson Title: “The Truth About Lies” (pp. 136-149)

Session 10

November 5, 2023

The main point of this lesson is: The devil is real and active.

Focus on this goal: To help adults have a healthy view of the devil and his activities without obsessing over him

Key Bible Passage: John 8:31-47

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask participants who have played “Two Truths and a Lie” to explain the rules of that game. (Each person states two truths and one lie about themselves, and everyone else has to guess which statement is the lie.) Ask: Would the statement, “I have never fought in a war” be a truth or a lie for you? Why is that?

Consider reasons present-day Christians don’t often equate following Jesus with war as previous generations did. Ask: Do you think believers should return to likening faith to being at war? Why? Assert if we don’t recognize we’re at war we won’t recognize we have enemies.

Identify from the introduction (p. 135) the three enemies of the soul. Read the last two paragraphs of the introduction, including the writer’s rally cry.

Step 2. Fighting the Devil

Ask: Why must we know our enemies when we’re at war? Explain for this session and the next, the group will examine the devil so we can know the strategies he uses against us.

But before we examine our enemies, we’re going to examine the battleground. Ask: Why is it important to know where we fight our enemies? What is the battleground of spiritual warfare?Invite volunteers to read Romans 8:5-7 and 12:1-2 to emphasize the battleground is our minds.

Discuss Day One, activity 1 (p. 137). Invite a volunteer to read the Day One Note (p. 137). Declare Jesus emphasized that truth in one of His many arguments with the Pharisees. Request a volunteer read John 8:31-41. Ask: What made the Pharisees confused? What made them angry?

Invite responses to the first part of Day One, activity 2 (p. 137). Ask how the Pharisees took a jab at Jesus. Invite someone to read Jesus’s response in John 8:42-47.

Step 3. There Is a Devil, Part 1

Ask: What is the first truth Jesus taught about the devil, not by an overt statement, but by implication?Explain the meaning of the word diabolos. Analyze possible reasons Jesus referred to the devil by a title and not by a name (see first paragraph of Day Two, pp. 138-139). We can learn from Jesus’s own reference to the devil that we need to take him seriously, but we don’t need to obsess over him or be overwhelmed by fear of him.

To help adults explore why the devil must be taken seriously, guide the group to read and discuss John 14:30; 1 Peter 5:8; and Revelation 12:7-12. Use remarks from Day Two (pp. 139-140) to add to the discussion.

Ask how Revelation 12:7-12 also emphasizes why believers don’t need to obsess over the devil and his power. Determine how the devil was defeated.

Invite a volunteer to read the last paragraph of Day Two (p. 140). Declare: But until Jesus’s victorious return, we must recognize we are at war with this great enemy who can do great harm if believers don’t stay alert. Discuss Day Two, activity 2 (p. 140).

Step 4. There Is a Devil, Part 2

Determine some secular explanations for the evils that exist in this world and the proposed remedies for those evils. Analyze why those explanations and remedies fall short. Consider why many think it sounds crazy to believe there is a devil, an immaterial and animating force, behind all evil.

Use the remarks in Day Three (p. 141) to describe the Flynn effect and how that fits in with progressive ideology and the rejection of the devil’s existence. Discuss Day Three, activity 1 (p. 141). Invite a volunteer to read the last paragraph of Day Three (p. 142).

Discuss the first part of Day Three, activity 2 (p. 142).

Step 5. The Devil Spreads Death

Discuss Day Four, activity 1 (p. 143). Examine why it is essential that we understand the devil’s end goal. Explore specific ways the devil works to accomplish that end goal, using Day Four (pp. 143-144) to add to the discussion.

Request a volunteer read John 10:11-18. Examine how Jesus accomplished His end goal. Ask: What’s the comfort and challenge in that for us?

Analyze how believers daily experience the devil’s opposition. Discuss Day Four, activity 2 (p. 144).

(Option: For additional insight into battling the devil, readanddiscuss Genesis 4:1-8.)

Step 6. The Devil Lies

Ask: What most comes to people’s minds when they think about the work of the devil?

Discuss Day Five, activity 1 (p. 145). (Note: Session 11 takes a deeper look at the devil as the father of lies.) Ask: Since the devil’s battle strategy is lies and deception, what is our primary battle strategy against him? Discuss the first part of Day Five, activity 2 (p. 146).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Ask: What are two truths and a lie you’ve discovered about the devil today? How do those help you have a healthy view of the devil and his activities without obsessing over him? Why is that essential as we go out into war every day?

Close in prayer.

