



Scripture Press

Bible Knowledge Series



## **ADULT** TEACHING GUIDE

# ***SAMPLE LESSON***

Includes links to related resources

# VICTORS EVERY DAY

OVERCOMING TOXINS  
THAT POISON THE BELIEVER



# VICTORS EVERY DAY

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# Bible Knowledge Series

## SCOPE & SEQUENCE

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER
2016–2017	1, 2, 3 John	Colossians	Numbers, Joshua	Solomon to Return from Captivity
2017–2018	Acts	1, 2 Samuel	1 Corinthians	2 Corinthians
2018–2019	1, 2 Peter, Jude	Daniel	Psalms	Victors Every Day
2019–2020	John	1, 2 Thessalonians	Ezekiel	Ephesians
2020–2021	Galatians	1, 2 Timothy, Titus	Minor Prophets	Jeremiah
2021–2022	Philippians	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	Romans	Life of Christ
2022–2023	Revelation	Judges, Ruth	Hebrews	Bible Characters
2023–2024	Genesis	Exodus	James	Mark

## RESOURCES

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[Teacher Resources](#)

For additional resources, please visit [www.davidccook.org](http://www.davidccook.org).

## CURRICULUM

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### [Study Book](#)

Bible study linked directly to this *Adult Teaching Guide*, challenging students to work through the Bible passage in advance preparation for your lesson.

### [Power for Living](#)

This weekly, take-home publication is an excellent tool both for personal growth and evangelism! With life-related stories of faith, it's great for church bulletin inserts, visitations, and class handouts.

# 1

## The Believer's Enemy: Satan

### Teaching Points

**Genesis 3:1-8; Job 38:4-7; Isaiah 14:12-14;  
Luke 8:1-15; Ephesians 6:10-18;  
Revelation 20:7-10**

#### LESSON AIM

To understand that Satan seeks to dishonor God by encouraging disobedience in Christians.

#### KEY VERSES TO MEMORIZE

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

#### GETTING PREPARED

[Copymaster 1](#), copied for distribution

*Related Scripture:* Ezekiel 28:12-19; I Peter 5:6-11

### UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE: SATAN'S LIMITS

Though Satan is an extremely powerful being, he is on a "leash." The devil can do nothing without God's permission. The prologue of Job is a pointed illustration of this principle. When Satan accused God of overprotecting His blameless servant, the Lord said, "Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand" (Job 1:12). Later, God allowed Satan to take away Job's health, but prohibited him from taking the man's life. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 10:13 that Satan cannot tempt us beyond what God will enable us to resist.

Satan hates the restrictions that God places on him, but he can't do anything about them. This can be a great source of comfort for the Christian who is suffering or persecuted. Truly "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

## UNDERSTANDING THE ADULT

When it comes to Satan and demons, believers often think either too little or too much about them. Many of your students may have a low awareness of Satan's power and activity. That is exactly what the enemy wants. Among his most powerful weapons are subtlety and deception. When he is exposed, he flees, usually in a rage. Your teaching today will raise your students' awareness of Satan's ploys, and will expose him for what he is—evil. Teaching about Satan's limitations will help those students who may have an excessive interest in (or fear of) the powers of darkness.

## FOCUS

Any good general will say that a key to military victory is knowing the enemy: know the way he thinks, the way he has acted in the past, the way he is anticipated to act in the future. The same is true of the believer's enemy. The more we know about him, the better our defenses against him will be.

### **Focus Activity:**

*Take the opportunity at the beginning of class to explore your students' knowledge and understanding of Satan's tactics today.*

## DISCOVER

### **I. THE ENEMY'S IDENTITY (Job 38:4-7; Isaiah 14:12-14)**

The first step of learning about Satan, the believer's number one enemy, is to gain an accurate knowledge of his identity. Several of his names appear in Revelation 12:9: "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

This adversary is known by many names. He is referred to as Lucifer (Isa. 14:12). Matthew's Gospel identifies him as "Beelzebub the prince of the devils" (12:24), and "the wicked one" (13:19). Jesus called him "Satan" (Luke 10:18), "the devil" (John 8:44), and "the prince of this world" (John 14:30). Paul described him as "the god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4) and identified him by the name "Belial" (6:15). To the church at Ephesus, Paul identified him as "the prince of the power of the air" and "the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Eph. 2:2). The Book of Revelation refers to him as "the deceiver" and "that

## *Memory Verse*

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

## *Teaching Points*

*Satan (satanas in the Greek, and Satan in the Hebrew) means "an adversary."*

*Hand out Copy-master 1 as you give these names and descriptions of Satan.*

old serpent" (Rev. 12:9) and as "the accuser of our brethren" (v. 10).

**Discussion:** The devil is known by many aliases. What do Satan's names tell us about him?

## Teaching Points

### SATAN'S ORIGIN

(Job 38:4-7)

Though the Bible identifies Satan by many names, it does not specify when he was created. We know that he was present in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1). Satan was present with "the sons of God" (Job 1:6). He is also believed to have been among the angels ("morning stars") who observed the creation of the world (Job 38:4, 7). From these texts, it is reasonable to believe that Satan was created along with the rest of the angels, sometime between eternity past and the creation of the world.

**Discussion:** Many Christians seem unaware, even unconcerned, about Satan's work in the world. Could the apparent indifference of many Christians toward Satan be part of his trickery? If so, how?

### SATAN'S FALL

(Isaiah 14:12-14)

There is good reason to believe that the Lucifer mentioned in Isaiah 14 refers to more than just the king of Babylon. The passage is a historic and prophetic text spoken against the prince of this world. In his pride, Satan said, "I will be like the most High" (v. 14). God responded: "Thou shall be brought down to hell" (v. 15).

Satan did not fall all by himself. Sadly, there were other angels who followed him and were also cast out of heaven. Peter, mentioning this group, states: "God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment" (II Peter 2:4). Other rebellious angels, however, continued to be very active throughout human history. Jesus spent much time casting out demons who were allowed to roam the earth. These cohorts of Satan are tireless in their destructive behavior, even today.

*The toxin of pride will be studied in chapter 6.*

*Note the number of times the pronoun "I" occurs in Isaiah 14:12-14.*

*Read Luke 4:1-15.*

**Discussion:** Satan used to be an angel of great beauty who stood before the throne of God. Why would such an angel, who had seen God's glory, rebel against Him?

### *Memory Verse*

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

### *Teaching Points*

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## II. THE ENEMY'S PLAN (Luke 8:1-15; Genesis 3:1-8)

Satan hates God and everything He stands for. This hatred compels him to destroy, or attempt to destroy, anything or anyone that honors God. When the Word of God is sown, the devil tries to keep it from taking hold. His primary goal is to dishonor God. He attempts to do this by blinding non-Christians and by deceiving believers.

### TO BLIND UNBELIEVERS

(Luke 8:1-15)

Didn't Jesus make it clear that He alone is the way to God? Why can't people accept the truth?

**Discussion:** Why do intelligent people reject Christ? How can some believe that Jesus was merely a good teacher or a great prophet—that Christianity is only one of many acceptable roads to heaven?

One reason people reject God's truth is that Satan removes that truth from their hearts before it takes root. In the parable of the sower, Jesus stated: "A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it." The words "trodden" and "devoured" denote the suppression of God's truth; Satan somehow takes it away before it can do any good. Paul stated that the adversary has placed scales over the eyes of unbelievers so that they cannot see the truth of the Gospel (II Cor. 4:4). Even so, no one can blame the devil for their unbelief.

### TO DECEIVE BELIEVERS

(Genesis 3:1-8)

Satan's attacks usually come in three ways. John described these as "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of



## Teaching Points

Lead a discussion about a modern version of Eve's temptation in the garden. Ask for an example or two of a contemporary temptation that includes all three of Satan's fiery darts:

- the lust of the flesh,
- the lust of the eyes,
- and the pride of life.

Satan delights in false teachers who lead Christians away from God's truth.

Many religious groups claim to know the truth, and yet are spiritually blind.

the eyes, and the pride of life" (I John 2:16). These methods are reflected in the temptation of Eve. Eve saw that the tree was "good for food" (lust of the flesh), that it was appealing to the "eyes" (lust of the eyes), and that it would make her "wise" (the pride of life). Satan told her, "Ye shall be as gods" (Gen. 3:5)—the same delusion he himself continues to embrace.

This three-way strategy against believers can be seen in the temptation of Jesus. The "lust of the flesh" was an attempt to entice the Lord to create bread for Himself. The "lust of the eyes," a vision of all the world's kingdoms, was an attempt to solicit Christ to rule without first dying on the cross. Satan tried to use the "pride of life" strategy by coaxing Jesus to demonstrate His deity by harmlessly jumping off a pinnacle of the temple. However, unlike Eve, the sinless Son of God, using the Word of God, turned away each temptation that Satan threw at Him.

The intensity and frequency of Satan's attacks vary. Several of his common ploys are easily recognizable. Satan chokes people with worldliness. "And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection" (Luke 8:14). That verse, written nearly 2000 years ago, is an appropriate commentary on Western society. Today, God's enemy uses desire, wealth, and the pursuit of pleasure to keep many from a deep relationship with Christ.

Satan stirs up doubts. "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Gen. 3:1). Satan began his deceptive work against Eve by twisting what God had said and by encouraging her to doubt His words.

After stirring up doubts in Eve's mind, Satan challenged God's authority. "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4).

Satan employs false teaching. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth because he was aware of Satan's shrewdness. He instructed that the evil one would also use false teaching to confuse believers. Paul counseled, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel: for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of



Satan is constantly accusing believers. Early in human history Satan slandered Job, a man God described as “perfect and upright” (Job 1:1). In the Book of Revelation, the enemy of God is identified as the accuser of the brethren who “accused them before our God day and night” (Rev. 12:10). The devil is called a slanderer 35 times in the Bible. Satan wastes no time accusing believers before God, apparently disregarding Christ’s work on their behalf.

Satan stirs up division in the body of Christ. Satan knows that slander spoken by believers against each other is more destructive than his own lies. We are to make every effort “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). The devil uses Christians’ slandering of one another as a means to disrupt the unity that is supposed to testify to the reality of Christ’s love.

In spite of Satan's strength and cleverness, he can be beaten. Just as the Scripture speaks of Satan's identity and strategy, it also speaks of his defeat.

**Discussion:** Satan loves to stir up doubts in the minds of believers. What are some good ways to resolve doubts that come into our minds?

**Discussion:** Sometimes Satan uses well-intentioned people as megaphones for his accusations. What is the best way to respond to a false accusation directed toward you?

### III. THE ENEMY'S DEFEAT (Revelation 20:7-10; Ephesians 6:10-18)

Satan suffers from grand delusions. He somehow really believes that he can disrupt God's plan. However, he knows that his time is short. So, there is a sense of urgency to his destructive activity. He knows the Scriptures that describe his ultimate demise, but he refuses to bow to their authority.

There is no question who will win “the invisible war” that has been waged throughout history. Satan is not God’s equal; though powerful, he is still a created angel. God will not allow Satan’s destructive activity

*Read Psalm 37  
when people accuse  
you with evil intent.*

*See John 13:34-35.*

*Memory Verse*

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Peter 5:8).

### Teaching Points

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## Teaching Points

Satan's defeat was predicted as early as the Fall of man. See Genesis 3:15.

to continue forever. One day the devil's destructive reign will end. Regardless of his delusions, Satan is not going to win.

**Discussion:** Satan believes that one day he will defeat God, and yet he knows that time is short. Satan knows what the Scriptures say about him, but he doesn't seem to believe what is written. Why does this make him particularly dangerous to believers?

### HE WILL BE DEFEATED ULTIMATELY

(Revelation 20:7-10)

During the Millennium, Satan will be bound and incarcerated, unable to tempt, provoke, or accuse anyone. When this period ends, he will be released for one last time of testing. His doom is described in Revelation 20:10: "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." On that day, the old serpent will receive the punishment he deserves.

**Discussion:** If Satan never existed, and there were no other "tempter," would there still be sin in the world? Why or why not?

### HE CAN BE DEFEATED DAILY

(Ephesians 6:10-18)

Jesus has given every Christian the necessary tools for fending off the fiery darts of the evil one. Eve believed the deceptive accusations of the devil and acted upon them. As demonstrated by Jesus, the best response to the falsehoods of darkness is the truth, specifically the truth of God's Word.

Matthew 4:4, 7, 10

Ephesians 6:10-18 describes the armor of God that is sufficient to protect the hearts and minds of Christians. The only offensive weapon described here is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Making use of this weapon means more than just quoting it; the truth of God's Word has to become a part of our lives—so much so that we are thinking and acting biblically in all circumstances.

**Discussion:** What is the purpose of each piece of spiritual armor described in Ephesians 6:10-18?

## RESPOND

Encourage your class to keep hiding God's Word in their hearts in order to stay sharp against the enemy. Past victories do not guarantee success in future battles. David was provoked by Satan to sin (I Chron. 21:1). Satan sifted Peter like wheat, and Peter gave in to the fear that resulted (Luke 22:31). These godly men were not immune to the attacks of Satan, so remind your students that they are also vulnerable. Admonish them to never let down their guard.

*Discuss ways to help in Scripture memorization. Let class members share how they do it; then take a few moments to memorize this week's verse together.*

*Memory Verse*

## Teaching Points

**THROUGH THE WEEK WITH GOD'S WORD**

Sunday	Ephesians 6:10-18	Wednesday	Luke 8:1-15
Monday	Job 38:4-7	Thursday	Genesis 3:1-8
Tuesday	Isaiah 14:12-14	Friday	Luke 4:1-13
		Saturday	Revelation 20:7-10

### CLASS PRAYER NEEDS

[illegible]