



What Do We Believe?

Lesson 32

What Do We Believe?

Lesson 32: Evil and Suffering: Satan's Part

Scriptures:

Genesis 3:1-15; Matthew 4:1-11; Ephesians 6:10-18; II Timothy 2:24-26; I John 2:15, 16; 3:7-10, 12

Lesson Goals:

To show the learner that Satan encouraged Eve and Adam to sin
 To show the learner that Satan has been the advocate for sin since that time
 To show the learner that Satan tries to keep us from accepting Jesus as Lord

Scripture Memory:

Put on the whole armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:11

The Lesson:

One day Matt was walking home from school with his friend Bradley. They passed the house where old man Pickens lived. Bradley said, "Hey Matt, I dare you to pick up that rock on the sidewalk and throw it at old man Pickens front door." Matt said, "I'm sure he is home and he'll be really mad." "Hey man, don't sweat it." Bradley persisted, "He's old. He can't catch us. We're just having a little fun. It won't hurt anything." So, tempted by his friend's insistence, Matt picked up the rock and threw it at the door. Sadly, his aim was just a little off and he hit a window in the top of the door. He broke it!

Now, who was to blame here? Was it Bradley because he tempted Matt, or was it Matt because he threw the rock? Actually, it was both. Matt and Bradley both sinned. Bradley was the tempter and Matt gave in to the temptation.

The third chapter in the book of Genesis tells us about this same kind of thing happening. In that case, it was Eve who was the sinner and Satan who was the tempter. God told Adam, who must have told Eve, that they couldn't eat the fruit of one of the many, many trees in the Garden of Eden. But, Satan told Eve that God wouldn't do what He said that He would do. "Just go ahead and eat," Satan said, "God didn't mean that you would really die." Then, when Eve did eat the fruit, she gave some to Adam and he also ate the fruit. So Eve, according to II Corinthians 11:3, was deceived by Satan.

The Bible says in Genesis that because Adam and Eve sinned, all humans are marked, kind of like infected forever, as sinners. Also, because Adam and Eve sinned, all living things are doomed to die. So, Satan got his way and since that day, Satan has been tempting humans to sin, that is, break the laws of God. It was pretty obvious that Satan was going to cause humans trouble soon after Adam and Eve were sent out of the Garden of Eden when they sinned. They had two sons, Cain and Abel. The Scripture says that Satan tempted Cain and Cain killed his brother Abel.

Satan uses all kinds of things to tempt us. He even tried to tempt Jesus, just after His baptism. The Bible says that there are things that God means for good that are used to tempt us to be bad. Sometimes it is the desire to get things. Satan sometimes convinces us that we need more things than we really do, and we are tempted to waste money on them or to get them in bad ways like stealing.

Sometimes we are tempted to let our good desire to do things get out of control and we begin to get more concerned about what people think about us than what we should be doing that is good.

Also, we let Satan convince us that our need for food and other basics of life are not being met like we want them to be and we "pig out" or let some other basic need in life get out of hand.

Finally, everyone is invited to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. He died on the cross so that everyone could have eternal life with God. It is Satan's greatest desire that no one ask Jesus to be their Savior and that no one would have eternal life with God. He will try to trick us into believing that we are okay, that we do not need a Savior.

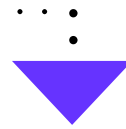
Life Application:

So, how can we know what's true? Do we really need a Savior? In one of Jesus' last prayers while He was on earth, He said that God's Word, the Bible, is true. And the Bible says, "Here is how you can tell the difference between the children of God and the children of the devil. Those who don't do what is right do not belong to God. Those who don't love their brothers and sisters do not belong to Him either." (1 John 3:9-10 NIV) Sin, knowing the right thing to do and not doing it, separates us from God. All of us have sinned and we deserve death for that sin. Satan would like you to believe anything but that, but it is true. That's pretty bad news, but there is good news, too. Jesus died on the cross willingly to pay the debt of our sin, making Him a Savior. Have you accepted the gift of His death for you? Have you let it change you? He died for everyone, including YOU!

"Those who are born again because of what God has done will not keep on sinning. God's very nature remains in them. They can't go on sinning." (1 John 3:9 NIV) How does that verse make you feel? Is your life under God's control? Do you live to obey Him? Or is your life a series of bad decisions; sin after sin after sin? Don't let Satan trick you into believing that you are okay with God. Evaluate your life. Do you remember the moment when you gave your life to Him? If not, will you do that right now? If so, commit to letting God be in complete control. Let Him make the decisions. Go where God wants you to go and do what He wants you to do.



Planning for Lesson 33
Evil and Suffering:
God's Part



- ◆ **Memory Verse Activity** - Review the memory verse. Talk about the importance of each piece. If possible, bring visual aids; for example, a replica of the armor, a picture of a Roman soldier in armor, or pictures of the individual pieces.
- ◆ Play a game where you give your students a task but then go about tempting them with something you know they would like (candy, money, etc.). Discuss how Satan tempts and tricks us to distract us from what God wants us to do - even from coming to know God.
- ◆ Provide pictures of Adam and Eve's sin in the garden, Cain and Abel, Jesus' temptation, and the armor of God.
- ◆ Sing "The Devil is a Meany," "Onward Christian Soldiers," "A Might Fortress is Our God," "Standing on the Promises," and "I'm So Glad Jesus Set me Free."
- ◆ **Dig Deeper:** Read Ephesians 6:10-18. Discuss where our strength comes from, who our fight is against, and how we are to be prepared.
- ◆ **Dig Deeper Still:** Read about Adam and Eve's temptation (Genesis 3:1-15), Cain killing Abel (Genesis 4:1-16, 1 John 3:12), and the temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11). Compare and contrast Satan's methods. Talk about how the temptation was resisted. If the temptation was not resisted, discuss the results.



**Put on the whole armor of
God so that you can take
your stand against the
Devil's schemes.**

Ephesians 6:11

Armor of God Match

Match the armor of God with where it is worn. For help, read Ephesians 6:10-18

BELT

WORD OF GOD

SHIELD

TRUTH

BREASTPLATE

SALVATION

SANDALS

RIGHTEOUSNESS

HELMET

GOSPEL OF PEACE

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

FAITH

Word Search



S S E N S U O E T H G I R R H T H
 W K W G O S P E L O F P E A C E T
 O D O O G O M E R D L I H C L M U
 R T H D R P R B T N V N E M R P R
 D D H V T L B M U H O N E I I D T
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 T O F S A L K C I T E P S O E G A
 N O I T A M A L F N E S S R I D T

Devil

trick

God

Helmet of Salvation

Sword of the Spirit

Belt of Truth

Breastplate

Righteousness

Shield of Faith

flaming arrows

tempt

Gospel of Peace

Word Search



S	S	E	N	S	U	O	E	T	H	G	I	R	R	H	T	H
W	K	W	G	O	S	P	E	L	O	F	P	E	A	C	E	T
O	D	O	O	G	O	M	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	L	M	U
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T	J	O	H	N	R	E	N	L	F	N	B	M	D	I	W	T
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E	I	S	W	O	R	R	A	G	N	I	M	A	L	F	L	E
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I	R	I	E	H	C	E	I	R	B	R	A	V	V	L	A	M
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N	O	I	T	A	M	A	L	F	N	E	S	S	R	I	D	T

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|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Devil | trick | God |
| Helmet of Salvation | Sword of the Spirit | Belt of Truth |
| Breastplate | Righteousness | Shield of Faith |
| flaming arrows | tempt | Gospel of Peace |