

The Origin, Nature, and End of Satan

Passages: As listed in the lesson.

Memory Verse

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]	Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]	Good Works [Behavior]
1. Satan has an origin; he is not self-existing. 2. Satan is proud and deceitful. 3. Satan will ultimately be judged and condemned by God.	God is almighty and righteous.	1. Learn to renew our minds by replacing our old, harmful thoughts with God’s truth. 2. Hide God’s word in our hearts. 3. Maintain our spiritual discipline.

Overview

Events and Spiritual Teachings

- A. The Name of Satan
- B. The Origin of Satan
- C. The Nature of Satan
- D. The End of Satan

Life Application: Fighting Our Spiritual Enemy

Memory Verse

Conclusion: We must be alert and ready to defend against Satan’s schemes by renewing our minds and replacing our old, harmful thoughts with God’s truth. We must learn to hide God’s word in our hearts and maintain our spiritual discipline.

Spiritual Teachings

Introduction: Know Your Enemy!

In every great adventure story, there is always someone who must fight and overcome his or her evil adversary. Often, the hero is unable to defeat the enemy at first, so the hero embarks on a journey, often filled with difficulties. However, by the end of the story, there is usually an epic battle scene where the hero defeats the adversary in a final showdown, bringing the story to its happy ending.

Today, we are also heroes on a spiritual journey. However, our enemy is not someone we can see or touch. Our enemy is invisible, who oftentimes does not attack us outright but rather uses cunning tactics to cause us to fall. Do you know who our enemy is? (*Let students respond.*) Yes, our greatest enemy is Satan! Today, we are going to learn about where he came from, what he is like, and how he will be defeated. By learning about Satan, we can better prepare ourselves to defend against his attacks and learn how to fight against him with the help of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A. The Name of Satan

Satan is not a name. It is actually a title that means “adversary.” This title is quite fitting because Satan’s sole purpose is to act against God and His people. In the Bible, Satan has many other names and titles that reveal his character.

1. Devil (Mt 4:1)

Devil means “slanderer” or “accuser.” Satan slanders or speaks ill of God before man, and of man before God. Satan does this because he is trying to create conflict between God and man. He does not want mankind to be saved.

2. Tempter (1 Thess 3:5)

Satan tries to entice and tempt mankind to sin. He uses our weaknesses and our sinful nature to lure us into his traps, making us sin against God.

3. Ruler of the world (Jn 14:30)

He is able to rule over the world because of the sin that is in the world. In the Bible, it also describes how Satan is able to use his power to deceive the people of world.

4. Great dragon and serpent of old (Rev 12:9)

This not only illustrates the crafty and deceiving nature of Satan, but also illustrates how he can be alluring and attractive.

B. The Origin of Satan

Where did Satan come from? God did not create this enemy. Rather, the Bible says that the being known as Satan was once one of God’s angels. What was he like before? Ezekiel 28:12–14 describes an angel that was full of wisdom, covered with precious gems, and “perfect in beauty.” Not only was this angel exceedingly wise and beautiful, but the angel was also anointed by the Lord and had dwelt in the garden of Eden. Let’s read about Satan’s downfall and what he said to himself in Isaiah 14:12–15.

This passage mentions the name *Lucifer*, which means “Day Star.” This name refers to Satan before his fall. Satan was especially proud because of his beauty (cf. Ezekiel 28:17). He wanted to exalt himself and be just like God. Instead of fulfilling the will of God, he thought he was as good as, or even better than, God. As a result of this pride, Satan became an enemy of God and was cast out of heaven.

Satan was not the only one who rebelled against God. Angels who sinned were cast out of heaven (Jude 1:6; 2 Pet 2:4). These evil angels are the demons we read about in the Bible who do their evil work on the earth. Today, as we look at the world around us, we are able to see Satan's presence and work.

C. The Nature of Satan

In addition to knowing where Satan came from, it is also important for us to understand his nature so that we are better able to defend against him.

1. Proud (1 Tim 3:6)

Pride was the primary cause of Satan's downfall. Pride is such an integral part of Satan's character that he knows very well how to ensnare people who have become proud and lead them to destruction.

2. Father of lies (Jn 8:44)

Satan is known as the father of lies because the goal of his words is always to mislead us. Satan will even twist the words of God to suit his needs. For example, in the garden of Eden, Satan tempted Eve to eating fruit from the tree by saying, "You will not surely die." While it was true that Adam and Eve did not experience death immediately, the act of eating the fruit brought sin and eventual death.

3. Deceitful (2 Cor 11:14)

Satan uses deceitful tactics to bring down the people of God, such as disguising himself as an angel of light to harm the people of God. For example, a person may go to church every Sabbath, but all they do at church is speak ill of others and cause people to fight. This person could be an instrument of Satan, used to deceive God's children and cause chaos in the church.

4. Unclean (Ezek 28:16–18)

Satan is defiled and unclean. Ezekiel describes Satan as one who is filled with violence and corruption. There are also multiple recordings in the Bible where he is called an unclean demon (Lk 4:33). This is because all kinds of evil, adultery, fornication, and sinful acts come from him.

5. Murderer (1 Pet 5:8)

Satan is a murderous lion who uses various methods to devour the children of God. Sometimes, he causes physical harm to a person, or he may disturb their minds so that they are unable to have peace in their hearts. Satan may even try to lead believers to stray from their faith by causing them to fall into temptation or by making them have doubts about God.

6. Destroyer (Jn 10:10)

John 10:10 tells us that Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy the flock of God, which is the church of God. Satan wants to steal us away from God and to kill us spiritually. He wants to completely destroy us so that we are unable to reach the heavenly kingdom and instead receive punishment with him in the lake of fire.

D. The End of Satan

Satan is impossible to beat on our own. But with the power from God, we are able to overcome Satan and defeat him! How exactly will Satan be defeated?

1. Satan has already lost

Jesus Christ has already overcome Satan! Let's read 1 John 3:8. The Son of God came to earth for the sole purpose of destroying the works of Satan. When Jesus Christ sacrificed His life on the cross for us and resurrected, He defeated the work of Satan by overcoming death and opening up a way for mankind to be saved (Heb 2:14).

2. Satan will be condemned

The Lord will cast Satan and angels like him into eternal condemnation. Jesus Christ overcame Satan and made a way for us to be saved, but the Lord will still judge Satan and his followers on the last day for their sins. The devil and all his false prophets will be cast into the lake of fire, which causes eternal torment (Rev 20:10). Satan knows this is his ultimate fate, so before this time, he will try his best to make us fall.

It is so important that we remain loyal to God. We must thoroughly equip ourselves with His words so that we are able to defend and protect ourselves from Satan's attacks. Let us constantly spiritually cultivate ourselves so that we can be on guard and prepared for whatever Satan throws at us!

Check for Understanding

- 1. What does the title "Satan" mean?** Adversary.
- 2. What are some of Satan's other titles?** Devil, tempter, ruler of the world, great dragon, serpent of old.
- 3. Where did Satan come from?** Satan was an angel of God that became proud, so God cast him down from heaven.
- 4. What is Satan's nature?** Proud, deceitful, dishonest, unclean.
- 5. What is Satan's ultimate fate?** He and his followers will be cast into the lake of fire to receive eternal condemnation.

Life Application

Fighting Our Spiritual Enemy

1. Be transformed by the renewing of our mind

After baptism, we are supposed to become a new person. But often our daily speech or actions barely change. Let's read a scenario of someone who is struggling with their transformation in Christ.

Jordan got to know God at church during a national youth theological seminar when his friend invited him to attend. He still remembers the feeling of receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Everyone in his group talked to him about God as if they had known each other for a long time. He was amazed to feel the downpouring of the Holy Spirit in him even before he knew what He was. After the seminar concluded and he returned home, he wanted to draw close to God. He never missed Sabbath, and he even began to talk to his friends at school about God.

But not long after, the battle with peer pressure and lust came again, just like when Jordan had not been a follower of God. On top of that, academics and other school activities began to dominate his thoughts and take away his time for God. His devotion to God began to weaken, and he found himself fighting a spiritual battle. The feeling of being so close to God was slowly fading, and he felt disconnected with God. He knew God loved him, but he still struggled with his faith.

Discussion: What was preventing Jordan from transforming into a new person in Christ?

One of the biggest obstacles in our faith is ourselves. Because of our worldly thoughts and standards, we unwittingly pull ourselves away from God. Our thoughts and our beliefs truly shape our behavior and our speech. Let's turn to Romans 12:2. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." We transform ourselves by renewing our minds. We need to change the way we think.

To live a victorious life, we need to replace our old, harmful thoughts with God's truth. To do so, we need to have the mind of Christ. Our thoughts need to match His. Otherwise, we won't be able to transform and will remain our old selves. But becoming more like Christ is such a difficult task! Where do we even begin? Renewing our minds is a process that needs to be taken step by step. We can start by "putting off" the things of the world and "putting on" those of Christ. Let's read Colossians 3:8–10:

But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.

What in our daily lives can we change? Do you get angry easily or lie a lot? We can begin the process by starting with these little things in our lives, step by step, and eventually we will learn to "set [our] mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (Col 3:2). When we do, we will be transformed.

Discussion: What part of your "old man" do you have difficulty "putting off"? What temptations do you face that are hard for you to overcome, and that interfere with your transformation in Christ?

2. Hide God's word in our hearts

We are constantly bombarded with the principles of the world through music, media, and even our friends. These can slowly chip away at our standards as a child of God. It is important to know how to identify Satan's deception and develop ways to defend ourselves with God's help. One of the ways God helps us is by communicating with us through the Bible. Studying His word is a key step to avoiding sin.

Whether through Satan's schemes or our own ambitions, our lives are often so busy that we do not stop to read the Bible. When we don't read the Bible, we forget what God wants us to do, making it easier to do things such as dishonoring our parents or lying. Let's read Psalm 119:11 and Colossians 3:16. To avoid falling into Satan's traps, we must hide God's word in our hearts, and let Christ's word dwell in us richly. But how do we let the word of God dwell in us "richly"? How do we "hide" His word in our hearts?

The word of God dwells in us richly when we meditate upon and memorize Scripture. Whenever we read the Bible, we need to ask questions. "What is God trying to teach me through this passage? What should I do about it? How can I hide it in my heart?" When we spend time asking questions and understanding the passage's intent, we begin filling our minds with His word and applying it to every part of our life. We start to change the way we think.

As an example, let's study Philippians 4:6–7. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

- What is God trying to teach me through this passage? *Instead of relying on worldly solutions, I should not be anxious for anything, because God will take care of me. He has promised to give*

me peace in my heart when I rely on Him and am thankful for what He has done for me.

- What should I do about it? *I must try to take all of my worries and troubles to God in prayer. Whenever I am feeling stressed or worried about something, I must remember to kneel down to pray, and ask God for help. I must also try to be thankful in all things, even when I am feeling upset.*
- How can I hide it in my heart? *I should memorize this verse. If I regularly feel stressed when I am doing my homework, I can write it on a sticky note and place it on my wall or on my desk. At school, I can think of the verse whenever I feel anxious about a test or a problem with my friends. I can then remember to pray for help and to be thankful that things are not worse than they are.*

Discussion: Think of the temptations that we discussed earlier and find two verses that you will meditate on this week. Share the verses with the class and explain why you chose them. *(Teachers: This discussion question has been incorporated into the students' homework.)*

3. Maintain our spiritual discipline

Satan uses a variety of ways to try to deceive us and weaken our faith, and we fall prey to his schemes because we forget about God's word. We are no longer spiritually disciplined. For each characteristic of Satan, what verse can help us maintain our spiritual discipline? *(Teachers: The verses provided are only suggestions; there are a variety of verses that can be used. Try encouraging the students to find verses on their own, with some guidance if they are not quite familiar with the Bible yet.)*

- **Pride**

Jamie was so proud of what she had accomplished on her art project. As she looked at her classmate's project, she thought to herself, "Wow, mine is so much better than hers. I know I'm going to get the best grade in the class."

Bible Verse: Jas 4:6

"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' "

- **Father of lies**

Frank lies a lot. He can't help himself. When his parents ask him if he has finished his homework, he'll say, "Yes," even though he isn't done. He also lies to his friends when he brags about how he owns the latest tech when he actually doesn't.

Bible Verse: Prov 12:22

"Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who deal truthfully are His delight."

- **Unclean**

Lily loved to read, and recently, her best friend let her borrow a bestseller. She was so excited to read it. However, as she was reading, she found that there were certain parts of the story that were inappropriate and sensual. At the same time, the story was so good that she just couldn't put it down. Just a little bit of uncleanness should be okay, right?

Bible Verse: 2 Cor 6:17

"Therefore '[c]ome out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.' "

- **Deceitful**

Jacob only had one test question left to answer and time was running out. He had studied so hard, and he knew the material, but the answer just wouldn't come to mind. Jacob glanced over at his neighbor and saw that his neighbor had already completed that question. He was so tempted to copy down the answer. He knew that the answer was somewhere in his brain. It only seemed fair to copy something he already knew.

Bible Verse: Gal 6:7–8

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

Memory Verse

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

Context

The apostolic members were constantly oppressed and faced many tribulations in their faith, including physical persecution, discord, and pagan practices. In this passage, Peter reminds the members of the importance of humility and harmony within the church (vv. 5–7). He also encourages them to remain steadfast in the faith, for they were not the only members suffering persecution (vv. 9–10).

Meaning

To be “sober” means to be awake and self-disciplined, and to avoid foolish or irrational decisions. To be “vigilant” means to remain alert, to be constantly aware of our surroundings, and to stay on the lookout for danger at all times. Peter is warning us to be self-disciplined, sensible, and alert because Satan is always seeking for opportunities to lead us into sin.

Like many predators, lions prey on animals that have fallen behind, that have stumbled, or are weaker. Sometimes, their prey is foolish enough to make themselves open to attack, either by straying from safety or by forgetting to pay attention to its surroundings. In the same way, Satan is always watching for the moment we stray from God or become weak. He wants us to fall away from God, and he is waiting to attack us at our weakest moments! Therefore, we must remain sober and vigilant in our walk of faith.

Conclusion

We are constantly bombarded with the principles of the world through music, media, and even our friends. These can slowly chip away at our standards as a child of God. It is important to know how to identify Satan's deception and develop ways to defend ourselves with God's help. Satan is like a roaring lion, waiting for us to fall so that he can devour us. Therefore, we must be alert and ready to defend against his schemes by renewing our minds and replacing our old, harmful thoughts with God's truth. We must learn to hide God's word in our hearts and remain spiritually disciplined.

Lesson 11 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. Explain in your own words why we must remain sober and vigilant.
Satan is always on the lookout for opportunities to lead us into sin, and he is constantly watching for the moment we stray from God or become weak. He wants us to fall away from God and he is waiting to attack us at our weakest moments.
2. “Your _____ was lifted up because of your beauty; you _____ your _____ for the sake of your splendor; I _____ you to the _____, I laid you before kings, that they may gaze at you.” (Ezekiel 28:17)
heart, corrupted, wisdom, cast, ground
3. Pick two of Satan’s characteristics that we learned, and briefly explain how it is his nature.
 - *Proud: The primary cause of his downfall, Satan knows very well how to ensnare people who have become proud and lead them to destruction.*
 - *Father of lies: The goal of his words is always to mislead us. He even twists the words of God to suit his needs.*
 - *Deceitful: Satan uses deceitful tactics to bring down the people of God.*
 - *Unclean: Satan is filled with violence and corruption because all kinds of evil, adultery, fornication, and sinful acts come from him.*
 - *Murderer: Satan uses various methods to devour the children of God and lead them astray.*
 - *Destroyer: Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy the flock of God. He wants to steal us away from God and destroy us spiritually so that we are unable to reach the heavenly kingdom.*
4. How do we transform ourselves by the renewing of our mind?
By changing the way we think. We need to replace our old, harmful thoughts with God’s truth. Our thoughts need to match His.
5. During class, we chose two verses that we would meditate on this week. For each, write down what God is trying to teach you, what you should do about it, and how you can hide it in your heart.
Personal answers; see Life Application #2 for example.