

# THE 49-DAY JOURNEY

A Higher Perspective To Living A Biblically Based Life



SESSION 2 - Seeing the Source of Deception





## SESSION 2

### Seeing the Source of Deception

This second session in our seven-week study explores the difficulties we face in living for eternity while on this earth. The world, the flesh and Satan are all actively aligned against us. The last thing Satan wants is Christians living as representatives of God's eternity. If we understand Satan's objectives and his deceitful tricks, we can draw near to God and overcome his influence in our lives. How does one go about putting this idea into practice?

#### FAST FACTS

From *Understanding a Post-Christian America in 2020*, several statistical facts provide insight into this week's study.

- The percent of American adults under the age of 40 who believe that **Satan is a real force in the world** today ranges from about half (50%) of born-again Protestants to about one in six (16%) of all others. Clearly, **most Americans do not believe that there is an external force for evil in this world.**
- For **American adults under the age of 40**, those who are born-again Protestants, have a strong biblical worldview, and have a minimally consistent religious practice (i.e. prayer at least once a day, read the Bible at least once per week, go to church a couple of times a month) make up less than 2% of the population. Thus, **over 98 out of 100 of adults under the age of 40 do not have a born-again, biblical worldview that is reflected in their religious practices.**



#### SESSION 2 THEME

Living as a citizen of heaven, I must be aware that Satan opposes God's purpose for my life and uses the world and the flesh to attempt to thwart me.



- And less than one in ten (10%) of **born-again Protestant adults** under the age of forty have the characteristics listed above. So the vast majority (i.e. 90%) of this group also **do not have a strong biblical worldview that is reflected in their religious practices.**

### PRIOR TO THIS WEEK'S SESSION

- Participate in the experience by reading a chapter a day in your *Periscope* book. This week the assignment is Chapters 8 through 14.
- Read/Listen to the daily email messages you will receive from Periscope this week.
- Read this week's Facilitator's Guide Session 2 in preparation for leading the session. Mark the time you want to start each major part of the outline. Within each activity, mark the questions that you want to have your group discuss.

### LEADING THE SMALL GROUP SESSION

Begin with whatever fellowship time you normally include in your small group time.

Begin by asking someone to lead in a prayer specifically asking for God's presence and leadership during this time. This session directly identifies the lies of Satan. We recommend praying against Satan and asking God to lead your session into the Way, the Truth and the Life.

### BODY OF SESSION

**35 - 55 minutes**



**Play the teaser video for Session 2.** It is entitled *Our OnLine Profile Page*. Press **Pause** for the Questions It lasts 3 minutes.

### Warm Up Questions

- Flip Wilson was a comedian from the 1970's best known for the line "The devil made me do it!"
- What do you think about that? As Christians, can Satan make us do things or can he only try to 'snare' us into doing things that support his demonic kingdom? (1 Tim 3:7)

**You have reached the Teaser Video End. Continue to the Teaching Session 2.**

## Group Discussion Questions - Our OnLine Profile Page

1. Does your on-line profile accurately portray your real personality and accomplishments? What are some ways that people try to make themselves look better on-line? Why?
  2. Does Satan try to make His domain appear to be better than it really is? Can you think of an example of something portrayed as desirable, but when you get it, it leaves you feeling empty or cheated? Why do you think we keep falling for these tricks?
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Press this **Play Button** to start the Teaching Video for Session 2  
It is called *Deceived by the Father of Lies*.

**WARNING: Be prepared to Press Pause when the First Set of Discussion Questions appear after the 6 minute mark. Rewind if necessary.**

## Group Discussion Questions - Part 1

1. Jesus told us in John chapter 8, that Satan was “a liar and the father of lies”. By his very nature, Satan is going to lie to you about what is true and what is important. He wants to separate us from God’s purpose for our lives. What are some of the favorite lies of Satan prevalent in America today?
2. Have someone read 1 Peter 5:8-9 aloud to the group. “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.” (1 Peter 5:8-9 ESV) Peter is writing to Christians who have been delivered from Satan’s authority and power. Yet, they still need to watch out for Satan. How does Satan want to devour you? What does it look like to be devoured by Satan? Practically speaking, how do you go about preventing this from happening?
3. Peter points out that the devil is an active enemy (not a story book boogeyman, but a real force). Someone who is prowling around is trying to stay hidden and keep a

low profile until he has his victim within reach. In what ways is Satan so influential and yet keeps a low profile in our society? What are his most effective tricks in our society as a whole? In the evangelical church?

4. But as a Christian, don't you have victory over Satan. Why should you have to worry about his lies now?

**Press Play on the Video to continue. Be prepared to Press Pause when Second Set of Discussion Questions appear shortly after the 10 minute mark.**

### **Group Discussion Questions - Part 2**

5. In a sense, Satan is more interested in capturing the thinking of Christians than non-Christians, because those living in the Holy Spirit create a powerful message of freedom to the captives. Paul warns us that there will be those who try "to delude you with plausible arguments." Plausible arguments mean they make sense and could actually be true. What type of arguments against Christianity do we hear today that are plausible to most people?
6. Satan does not need to turn you into an alcoholic, sex crazed, gang member to destroy your witness. He simply needs to get you focused on temporal pleasures of this world rather than on your eternal purpose in Christ. He has so many willing helpers in our culture today to keep your focus off of Jesus. Who and what are the helpers that Satan has working to help deceive you?

**Press Play on the Video to continue to the end. Discuss the Group Question at the end of the Video. Rewind if necessary.**

### **Group Discussion Questions - Part 3 - Conclusion**

7. How many of you wear physical armor most days? Most of us do not wear armor because we do not expect to be attacked. Those who have dangerous jobs usually wear the most effective armor tailored to the types of attacks they are expecting.

8. Have someone read Ephesians 6:10-17 aloud to the group. Paul says we can expect to be attacked as we carry out our eternal purpose. Name some ways you have experienced attacks from the “schemes of the devil”?
  9. Our hosts talked through various types of spiritual armor. Which type of armor do you think is most important in your life? Which type are you least likely to wear regularly?
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## **CLOSING THOUGHTS      8 - 15 minutes**

1 John 2:1 says, *“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”*

**We have an advocate to heal us from the attacks of Satan.**

Let us pray that more and more, we will draw near to God causing Satan to flee from us in our daily lives. Thank God we have an advocate with the Father for those times we fall. Ask Him to free us from captivity so that we can walk in His Truth.

**CLOSING PRAYER** – Have someone lead in a closing prayer.

## **FOLLOW UP TO SMALL GROUP SESSION**

Pray for any prayer requests or concerns brought up in your group.

Think about the session. What went well? What seemed to fall flat?

**Next week**, your group is going to be talking about some of the lies prevalent in our society. Satan wants to use these lies to take us captive. Pray that God will make His Truth clear to each member of the group.

