

SCHEMES

Part 2: The worst **INFLUENCER** on planet earth
2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11-12

He has three strategic **OBJECTIVES**

- His goal is to **DIVIDE**

- ▶ Divide our **RELATIONSHIPS** Ephesians 4:26-27

- ▶ Divide through various stages of **ANGER**

- His aim is to **DECEIVE**

- ▶ Deception through **TEMPTATIONS** Eph. 6:16

- To act like **SOCIETY** 1 Thess. 3:5; 2 Timothy 4:10

- To be **SELFISH** Acts 5:1-11

- To act **IMMORALLY** 1 Cor. 7:5

- ▶ Deception through **SUBTLE** influences Luke 22:31

- His plan is to **DESTROY**

- ▶ Destroy all **IMAGE BEARERS** Mark 5:5; Luke 9:42

- Physical illness vs. Satan's work
Mark 1:32-34; Acts 5:16

- Physical diseases
Matt 9:32-33, 12:22, 17:15-18; Mark 5:2-20, 9:17-29

- ▶ Destroy **JESUS'** work on earth John 13:27; 1 Thess. 2:18

Part 3: He **CUSTOMIZES** his attacks: To make you **VULNERABLE!**

Auburn Grace Community Church – August 22nd, 2021

Life Group Discussion Questions – August 22, 2021

Ephesians 6:11 *Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*

DISCOVER

1. What is the difference between strategy and tactics? How does setting priorities help to accomplish a plan of attack? Why is it important to have contingency plans?
2. If you were the invading general in a military campaign, what kinds of ruses would you deploy to confuse and decisively overwhelm your enemy? If you were the defending general, what safeguards would you have in place? What countermeasures would you take?

EXPLORE

1. How does the devil draw us away from remembering that he is real and active in our lives? Conversely, what problems might we encounter if we “over-spiritualize” and blame the enemy for all the brokenness in our lives? (see 2 Corinthians 2:11)
2. Why is it so important to be completely certain that the Bible is the true, inerrant Word of God? How should this attitude affect our responses to spiritual attacks? Do you remember a time when you experienced spiritual oppression and doubted the veracity of the Bible?
3. If a Christian is immersed in worldliness (acts like society, acts immorally, acts selfishly), what can be inferred about their spiritual priorities and decision-making? How does this validate the craftiness of the devil?
4. Is it right just to conceal your frustration or irritation and not deal with it? How does the enemy use suppressed anger as a gateway to further his agenda? (see Proverb 26:24)

EXPERIENCE

1. Why does the devil focus so much of his attacks on relationships? Where have you witnessed this in your own experiences?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:8. What circumstances in life cause us to be less than sober-minded or alert? Is it possible to always be ready for the attacks of the devil? What does it mean that the enemy wants to **devour** us? Is this a physical or spiritual assault? Explain. (see Luke 22:31)
3. A full schedule of worldly activities will exhaust any Christian. In what specific areas will this bring us to spiritual defeat?

PRAY/ACTION

Pray... Thank God that He is an equipping God; that He has given us His Son Jesus to emulate; that He has given us prayer as a weapon against the devil's schemes; that He has given us His Word to demolish strongholds and any pretensions against His Kingdom and that we can take refuge in Him. Ask God to teach you to quickly recognize the schemes of the devil; that you would be able to fight the good fight that He has called you to.

Action... Recognizing that life is a battleground (not a playground), be alert and sober-minded to recognize a spiritually appraised situation that will come this week. Hold-up your shield of faith and report back to your group how the enemy's fiery darts were readily extinguished.