

SCHEMES

Life Group Discussion Questions – August 8, 2021

Part 1: Who is this schemer called **SATAN** or the **DEVIL**?

*‘so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan,
for we are not ignorant of his **schemes**’* 2 Corinthians 2:11

He is the greatest **ANGEL** who fell from heaven Ez. 28:11-19

His **PERSONAL** beauty was unsurpassed vs. 12-13

His **POSITION** was highest among the angels vs. 14-15

His **PRIDE** overwhelmed his wisdom vs. 16-19; Isa. 14:12-17

He is the primary **ENEMY** of God

He is **EVIL** to the core John 8:44

His **BRILLIANCE** is dangerous 2 Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 2:2

His **POWER** is comparable to Michael’s Revelation 12:7-9

He is humanity’s greatest **ADVERSARY** 1 Pet. 5:8; Col. 1:13-14

He is the father of lies and **ACCUSATIONS** Revelation 12:10

He is a source of our **TEMPTATIONS**
Luke 22:31; Eph. 6:6-7; 1 Thess. 3:5

His power is to be **RESPECTED** and **RESISTED**
Jude 1:9; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9

Part 2: What are his **SCHEMES** against us?

To Divide, to Deceive, to Destroy

Ezekiel 28:15-16 *You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade, you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore, I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God.*

DISCOVER

1. What do you think God wants us to know about the devil? What are the dangers of too close or continued examination of the adversary? How can we be safe in this knowledge?
2. Read Job 1:6-7 and 1 Peter 5:8. What approach of the devil is disclosed to us? How should we respond?

EXPLORE (read Ezekiel 28:1-19)

1. How did pride and prosperity lead to the fall of Tyre? Compare and contrast the King of Tyre to Nebuchadnezzar? (see Daniel 4)
2. Why compare the king of Tyre with the angels on Mt. Sinai and Adam in Eden? (Ezekiel 28:13-16) What does this imply about how God feels about you?
3. After reading 1 Peter 5:8, we can assume not all successfully evade the enemy; that the devil prevails at times and does indeed devour us, Christian or not. What happens as a result of Christians being “devoured”?
4. What does it mean that the devil is our “accuser”? What does he accuse us of?
5. Read Job 1:12 and Luke 22:31. What was special about Job and Peter? Were they protected by God in some way? In these two cases, Satan sought **permission** to act against God’s elect. Must the adversary always do this first? Can you think of scriptures that show that the devil has boundaries and rules that he must abide by?

EXPERIENCE

1. Describe a time when you knew you were being spiritually oppressed. How long did it last? How did you overcome? Have you observed these attacks on others as well? How did you respond?
2. Read Ephesians 6:10-17. Are you indifferent or skeptical or do you even completely disregard the admonishment to put on the full armor of God? Like many in our culture, have you ever had a preoccupation with the occult, to one degree or another? Why do you think that is?
3. Ephesians 4:27 says to be careful to “not give the devil an opportunity.” What areas in your life do you think could use extra attention so that the enemy does not establish a foothold?

PRAY/ACTION

Pray... Thank you, Jesus, for rescuing me from my sins and the accuser’s lies. Thank You that nothing can separate me from Your love. Help me to be steadfast in my trust in You. Show me where in my life I have given-up Kingdom territory to the enemy and by Your power, help me to take it back. Give me and my loved ones the protection we need to bring You glory. In Jesus’ name.

Action... First thing every morning for one week, before you get out of bed or before your day gets started, give thanks then intentionally, step-by-step, and put on the full armor of God.