

SCHEMES

Part 3

Let's **Describe** our adversary; Let's **Define** his schemes;
Let's **Defend** ourselves

He has three strategic **OBJECTIVES**

- His goal is to **DIVIDE**
- His aim is to **DECEIVE**
- His plan is to **DESTROY**

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

Be a student of yourself and your personal gauges!

Satan wants to **H.A.L.T.** your life and make you susceptible.

H. = HUNGRY – intense cravings for something that ultimately damages you. Matt. 26:14-16
Examples: Attention, sex, lust, money, food, drugs, comfort, possessions, position, self-expression

A. = ANGRY – anger is a gateway to Satan's influence. Ephesians 4:26-27
Examples: Frustration, harboring ill-feelings, annoyances, being mad, cursing, rage, bitterness, un-forgiveness

L. = LONELY – real or perceived isolation Proverbs 18:1; Ecclesiastes 4:11-12
Examples: Seclusion creates vulnerability for wrong internal or external influences, mental or emotional spiraling, TV bingeing, escape, mental or emotional spiraling, etc.

T. = TIRED – exhaustion lowers our defenses Matt 11:28-29
Examples: Mental, emotional, physical fatigue is what Satan is pushing you and your kids toward

Part 4: Let's **Defend** ourselves and our families!

Auburn Grace Community Church – September 5th, 2021

Life Group Discussion Questions – September 5, 2021

Matthew 26:14-16 *Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they set out for him thirty pieces of silver. And from then on he looked for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.*

DISCOVER

1. Looking at WWII or the attacks on September 11, crises have been known to unite America. List some of the ways we are divided today as a nation. Why are these crises not uniting us instead? Many items on the list you make are hot-button issues and can easily rabbit trail the discussion. Keep the conversation on-track.
2. Describe a time when you were deceived by someone you trusted. Were there lies involved? Why was your guard down? How does a hardened heart dull a person's ability to perceive lies and deception?

EXPLORE

1. Your desire is to withdraw, to get alone. What is the difference between escaping and refreshing? As Christians, how should we refresh? Why are lonely people dangerous to themselves? Does this mean that when people separate themselves they will make unwise decisions? (see Ecclesiastes 4:11-12 and Proverbs 18:1)
2. Read Ephesians 4:26-27. When we harbor anger in our hearts, we do the devil's work for him. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Explain.

EXPERIENCE

1. What are some things or areas in your life that you are deeply passionate about? Where do these cravings come from? How can the devil exploit these areas and reveal them instead as "chinks in your armor"?
2. Discuss how you can become a more intentional student of yourself. How will you know if you pass this "self test"? How can your Life Group help you do this?
3. In what ways can we make sure we don't inadvertently come into agreement with the devil? (see Matthew 11:28-30)
4. Using the H.A.L.T. analogy, Pastor Phil taught us about how the enemy customizes his attacks to make each one vulnerable to his schemes. Identify where these areas of Hunger, Anger, Loneliness and Tiredness come-up consistently in your life.
5. How can we make our witnessing efforts less exhausting? Or our Bible time? Or our Obedience? Does worship refresh and restore you or does it take effort?

PRAY/ACTION

Pray... Father, I pray that You will protect me from the enemy; that You will help me to detect his schemes, lies and suggestions. May there be no place in me that allows Satan a foothold to tempt or harass me, for You alone are my refuge and strength.

Action... In an effort to curb your appetite for "tech stimulation", fast your screen time for 24 hours one day this week. Each time you are tempted, revisit Matthew 11:28-30.