



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: Eph. 6:11; Genesis 3:1-7*

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

### Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

**Bible Reading:** Ephesians 6:11-12 and Genesis 3:1-7, 13

### Sermon Summary:

What are the universal, over-arching schemes of God's enemy? That's what we will look at this week. But we have to see who the devil and the satan are to do that. The devil is the accuser of all people (Rev. 12:10), & the satan is the adversary who opposes every good thing. This spirit-being is God's enemy. He wants nothing more than to steal, kill and destroy (Jn. 10:10a). He is a liar and the father of lies (Jn. 8:44). So what are his schemes? 2 Corinthians 2:11 tells us not be ignorant of them. So what are they?

In Gen. 3 we see 3 specific schemes that the satan and the devil use to trap us: disguise, deception & doubt. He comes in forms you and I would not expect as a way to engage and entice us. He deceives! It's all he knows to do. Deception is at his very core! Lastly he sows seeds of doubt in our hearts about God's word & God's good motives. I hope you would not simply dismiss these things as they come to you. First, recognize them and then, lean into God for his strength to stand firm in the evil day (Eph. 6:10, 13).

**Discussion:**

1. The devil (accuser) & the satan (adversary) are not proper nouns, but descriptors of its activity. How does this help you in your understanding of him?
2. Why is it crucial that we aren't ignorant of his schemes? Why is it dangerous to be so?
3. Thomas Brooks says one device of the satan is painting sin with virtue's colours: *"Satan knows that if he would present sin in its own nature and dress, the soul would rather fly from it than yield to it, and therefore he presents it unto us not in its own proper colours, but painted and gilded over with the name and show of virtue."* How does this help to unmask his activities with you?
4. How has the satan sown seeds of doubt in you regarding God's word or God's good motives towards you?
5. The Lord's Prayer concludes with the words, "deliver us from the evil one." (Matt. 6:13) What do these words mean to you, and how do they help with your attitude toward God's enemy and the fight you're in?

**End with Prayer.**

- Pray for your eyes to be opened regarding the warfare we are in as Christians.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.