

A 6-WEEK, NO-HOMEWORK BIBLE STUDY

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Spiritual Warfare: Overcoming the Enemy

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Kay Arthur, David & BJ Lawson

4minute
BIBLE STUDIES

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PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



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P R E S S

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HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

This small-group study is for people who are interested in learning for themselves more about what the Bible says on various subjects, but who have only limited time to meet together. It's ideal, for example, for a lunch group at work, an early morning men's group, a young mothers' group meeting in a home, a Sunday-school class, or even family devotions. (It's also ideal for small groups that typically have longer meeting times—such as evening groups or Saturday morning groups—but want to devote only a portion of their time together to actual study, while reserving the rest for prayer, fellowship, or other activities.)

This book is designed so that all the group's participants will complete each lesson's study activities *at the same time*. Discussing your insights drawn from what God says about the subject reveals exciting, life-impacting truths.

Although it's a group study, you'll need a facilitator to lead the study and keep the discussion moving. (This person's function is *not* that of a lecturer or teacher. However, when this book is used in a Sunday-school class or similar setting, the teacher should feel free to lead more directly and to bring in other insights in addition to those provided in each week's lesson.)

If *you* are your group's facilitator, the leader, here are some helpful points for making your job easier:

- Go through the lesson and mark the text before you lead the group. This will give you increased familiarity with the material and will enable you to facilitate the group with greater ease. It may be easier for you to lead the group through the instructions for marking if you, as a leader, choose a specific color for each symbol you mark.

- As you lead the group, start at the beginning of the text and simply read it aloud in the order it appears in the lesson, including the “insight boxes,” which appear throughout. Work through the lesson together, observing and discussing what you learn. As you read the Scripture verses, have the group say aloud the word they are marking in the text.
- The discussion questions are there simply to help you cover the material. As the class moves into the discussion, many times you will find that they will cover the questions on their own. Remember, the discussion questions are there to guide the group through the topic, not to squelch discussion.
- Remember how important it is for people to verbalize their answers and discoveries. This greatly strengthens their personal understanding of each week’s lesson. Try to ensure that everyone has plenty of opportunity to contribute to each week’s discussions.
- Keep the discussion moving. This may mean spending more time on some parts of the study than on others. If necessary, you should feel free to spread out a lesson over more than one session. However, remember that you don’t want to slow the pace too much. It’s much better to leave everyone “wanting more” than to have people dropping out because of declining interest.
- If the validity or accuracy of some of the answers seems questionable, you can gently and cheerfully remind the group to stay focused on the truth of the Scriptures. Your object is to learn what the Bible says, not to engage in human philosophy. Simply stick with the Scriptures and give God the opportunity to speak. His Word *is* truth (John 17:17)!

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: OVERCOMING THE ENEMY

The first rule of battle is this: know your enemy. A thorough knowledge of the opponent's strength, his probable line of attack, and his tactics are vital to achieving victory. So how complete and accurate is your understanding of your enemy, the devil? Did you even know you had an enemy?

The Bible clearly shows that every one of us lives in the midst of a spiritual battle, whether or not we realize it. Yet many—even many believers—make the mistake of dismissing the enemy as a benign cartoon character with horns and a tail. Others become preoccupied with the enemy, fearfully focusing on his power rather than living in the reality of God's strength. As

you'll discover in the weeks ahead, neither approach reflects the battle-ready perspective we need to walk daily in victory.

It is imperative that we have accurate information about our enemy, who is bent on destroying our ability to effectively serve God. For the next six weeks, you will dig into the Word of God to discover the truth about the devil for yourself. Knowing this truth will enable you to stand firm when you encounter the enemy!

WEEK ONE

Who is the devil? What do you know about him and where did you get your information? From movies? books? video games? As a follower of Christ, it is important that you know exactly who the devil is—because his goals involve you personally. The Bible has a lot to say about him, and this week we will begin to discover those truths for ourselves.

OBSERVE

We will begin our study in Genesis chapter 3. Keep in mind that the Bible is a progressive revelation of truth. In other words, God reveals truth little by little, building on what He has revealed before. We won't learn all there is to know about the devil in this lesson, but by the end of the course, you will be able to recognize him and his tactics.

Leader: *Read Genesis 3:1–7 aloud.*

- *Have the group say aloud and mark each mention of **the serpent**, including pronouns, with a pitchfork, like this: *

GENESIS 3:1–7

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”

² The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said,

‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’ ”

4 The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!

5 “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were

As you read the text, it's helpful to have the group say the key words aloud as they mark them. This way everyone will be sure they are marking every occurrence of the word, including any synonymous words or phrases. Do this throughout the study.

DISCUSS

- Look where you marked references to the serpent. What did you learn about the serpent, his character and his tactics?

- Discuss how the woman responded to the serpent and the action she took.

- What happened as a result of her actions?

OBSERVE

Eve ate the fruit and shared it with her husband. Their eyes were then opened, just as the serpent had promised. But the story doesn't end there.

***Leader:** Read Genesis 3:8–13 aloud. Have the group say aloud and mark...*

- every mention of **LORD God**, including pronouns, with a triangle: 
- each reference to **the serpent**, including pronouns, with a pitchfork.

DISCUSS

- What did you learn about God in this passage?

opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

GENESIS 3:8–13

⁸ They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”

11 And He said,
“Who told you that
you were naked? Have
you eaten from the tree
of which I commanded
you not to eat?”

12 The man said,
“The woman whom
You gave to be with
me, she gave me from
the tree, and I ate.”

13 Then the LORD
God said to the
woman, “What is this
you have done?” And
the woman said, “The
serpent deceived me,
and I ate.”

- How did Adam and Eve respond to God, both in their behavior and conversation?

- What did you learn about the serpent and his tactics?