

Lesson Aim: To discuss how, even as Christ followers, we can be made vulnerable to the Enemy's temptations, accusations and lies... and how we need to be proactively resisting the devil by depending on Christ and His resources.



connecting

Prayer: Start your time in prayer together, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself, protect your time and guide your discussion.

Ice-breaker: What are some ways you respond when you know someone is lying to you?

1. In the message, Scott discussed how the word often translated "demon-possessed" (daimonizomai) is better translated "demonized". This shows us that demonic influence is not really "all or nothing" (possessed or totally free) but rather more like a continuum of "0 to 10" (varying degrees of influence). A follower of Christ can never be owned by demons, but they can be influenced and controlled (cf. Acts 5:3; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 5:8-9). Was this a new concept for you? What does it make you think about?
2. **1 John 5:19** makes the bold statement: "The whole world is under the control of the evil one." What are some implications of this statement?
3. **Read 1 Peter 5:8-9 and 2 Corinthians 11:3-4.** How do these verses highlight the vulnerability of believers to demonic temptations, accusations and deceptions?
4. **Read Luke 11:24-26 and review "The Reality & Personality of Demons" section in your sermon notes.** Why do you think the man in Jesus' story was so easily overtaken when the evil spirits came back around? What can we learn from this example?
5. **Read Deuteronomy 18:9-13.** What were some of the evil and demonic influences God's people were about to face? How did God expect His people to respond to them?
6. **Read Acts 19:8-20.** What were some of the evil and demonic influences that were present in the city of Ephesus? How did Christ-followers like Paul deal with them? How did new converts to Christ deal with some of these evil influences?
7. In our own culture, evil and demonic influence is sometimes blatant and sometimes subtle and sneaky. What are some ways it seems evil and demonic influence can creep into our lives (both overtly and in subtle ways)? Please try to share personal examples.
8. What can we learn from the examples of God's people about dealing with some of these evil and demonic influences in our lives today? Again, try to be as personal and specific as possible.

EXTRA CREDIT:

9. **Read 1 John 5:19.** Along with saying the world is under the influence of the evil one, this verse also tells us "We know that we are children of God", a statement which speaks directly to followers of Jesus Christ. How does the truth of that statement also speak into this subject of demonization and the vulnerability of the believer?



growing



sewing



reaching

Close in prayer as the Lord leads you.

WE ARE ALL POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HELL

- ❶ We are called to allow the Bible to transform our thinking. (Romans 12:2)
- ❷ We are called to develop & utilize spiritual discernment. (1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:20-22)
- ❸ We are called to be spiritually alert. (1 Peter 5:8)
- ❹ We are called to submit to God & resist the devil. (James 4:7; 1 John 5:19)

▶ 1 John 5:19 - *The whole world is under the control of the evil one.*

▶ Options when we are lied to...

- ❶ Believe it
- ❷ Argue with it
- ❸ Pay no attention to it

DEGREES OF VULNERABILITY FOR THE BELIEVER

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| ▶ Influenced | ▶ <u>Probable</u> (1 Peter 5:8-9) |
| ▶ Controlled | ▶ <u>Possible</u> (Acts 5:3) |
| ▶ Owned | ▶ <u>Never</u> (1 Peter 1:18-19) |

NOTE: Meaning of "*daimonizomai*" (Greek) = "demonized" or "under the influence of demons"

THE REALITY & PERSONALITY OF DEMONS (Luke 11:24-26)

- ❶ Demons exist outside & inside of humans; they are dismembered spirits.
- ❷ Demons are able to travel at will; they are not subject to the natural barriers of a 3-dimensional world.
- ❸ Demons seem to find a measure of rest in a body. (They preferred pigs to the pit.)
- ❹ Demons are able to communicate.
- ❺ Demons have individual identities.
- ❻ Demons are able to remember & make plans.
- ❼ Demons are able to evaluate human beings.
- ❽ Demons are able to make decisions.
- ❾ Demons are able to consolidate.
- ❿ Demons vary in degrees of wickedness. (cf. Mark 9:29)

THE LURE OF KNOWLEDGE & POWER (Deuteronomy 18:9-13)

❶ Counterfeit Knowledge

- Genesis 3:4-5; Leviticus 19:31, 20:6, 27; Deuteronomy 13:1-11, 18:8-13; Isaiah 8:19-20

❷ CONTERFEIT POWER (Isaiah 47:8-15)

- Root Problems: ▶ Sensual nature ▶ Proudful heart ▶ Deceived mind

PRINCIPLE: You can be led astray by the enemy's temptations, accusations, lies & deceit.