ADVANCED
Bible Study

THE DARK SIDE
SECOND NATURE

FALL 2017 | TEACHER GUIDE
LEADING SOMEONE TO THE GREATEST DECISION OF ALL

One of the great joys of leading a group in Bible study is seeing group members deepen their walk with Christ. Everyone’s walk with Christ begins with an initial decision to follow Him in repentance and faith. There may be people in your group who have not made that decision yet. Take advantage of your time with them to talk about becoming a Christian.

As you tell your own story about coming to Christ, share these key truths:

1. We are all sinners, and each of us needs to acknowledge before God that we are sinners. That acknowledgement involves repentance, which is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Refer to Romans 3:23, 6:23, and Acts 3:19.

2. The only way a person can receive the gift of forgiveness is by faith in Jesus as God’s Son. Use verses like Acts 4:12, Ephesians 2:8-9, and John 14:6 when talking about faith in Christ.


Invite the person to pray a prayer similar to this:

“Dear God, I know I am a sinner and have rebelled against You in many ways. I believe Jesus died for my sin and only through faith in His death and resurrection can I be forgiven. I now turn from my sin and ask Jesus to come into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will choose to follow Jesus. Thank You, Lord, for loving me and forgiving me. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”
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What’s Inside

Teaching Plan—Each session has a two-page teaching plan. Use it in accordance with Advanced Bible Study, utilizing the teaching outline to guide your class through the passage and its key emphases as detailed in the Advanced Bible Study commentary. Engage class members by leading a discussion of key points, asking questions, and inviting their insights.

Optional Idea—We learn in a variety of ways. This additional teaching idea will encourage your class members to use different senses, enhancing their learning and deepening their understanding.

Dig Deeper—This is an illustration or fact not readily drawn from the passage that can add depth and meaning as you teach.

Pray

Because the Holy Spirit is the guide for your study, invite Him to show you how to “rightly divide the word of truth” as you teach your class. Read the Bible passage several times, asking the Holy Spirit to show you its meaning and application.

Prepare Your Class Members

Encourage your class members to read Advanced Bible Study prior to class time. In addition, you may consult one of the following Personal Study Guides or commentaries:

- Bible Studies for Life: Adult
- Bible Studies for Life: KJV Adult
- Bible Studies for Life: Young Adult
- Bible Studies for Life: Senior Adult
- Herschel Hobbs Commentary

Some class members may prefer to read their book after class as a way to follow up and reflect on what they have learned and discussed.
Satan employs two strategies. He wants us to either ignore him—even deny his existence—or he want us to be immobilized because we fear him. Satan is real and he is powerful. The presence of evil throughout our world attests to that. But we should not lose sight of an even greater truth: Jesus is greater—and He is victorious! As followers of Christ, it is essential that we know who battles against us, but we should also rest in the truth that Satan has been defeated by Christ. There is a dark side, but the light of Christ has overcome the darkness.

How This Study Connects to the Attributes of Discipleship:

- **Bible Engagement.** God guides us through His Holy Spirit and the clear teaching of His Word. God’s Word is powerful and helps us stand against evil, temptation, and the attacks of the evil one.

- **Obeying God and Denying Self.** We overcome evil in our lives as we die to self and follow Christ completely. We recognize the authority of Jesus Christ, the One who is both fully God and fully man.

- **Exercising Faith.** Christ has authority over all things, and we are to trust Him to work on our behalf. We can always trust God regardless of what may tempt us to think otherwise.

- **Seeking God.** When we seek God and come to Him for direction, He is there for us (Jas. 4:8).

- **Unashamed.** Christ empowers us to live boldly—even in the face of opposition.
SESSION 1
SATAN

- **The Point**
  Satan fights against us, but we can stand in Christ.

- **The Bible Meets Life**
  Satan is real. We cannot blame our sin and problems on him, but he is ever at work to keep evil strong in the world and to encourage our involvement with sin. Christians are wise to stay alert to the devil’s work, since he is ever scheming to pull us down. The Bible presents a clear picture that Satan will not prevail in his evil. He is defeated by Christ, and he is defeated in our lives as we walk with Christ.

- **Revelation 12:7-12 (CSB)**
  7 Then war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels also fought, 8 but he could not prevail, and there was no place for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was thrown out—the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say, “The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have now come, because the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been thrown down. 11 They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; for they did not love their lives to the point of death. 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has come down to you with great fury, because he knows his time is short.”
Get Into the Study

OPENING QUESTION: What is the world’s view of Satan?

- Many in the world believe Satan to be a person with horns and a tail, carrying a pitchfork, and sometimes sitting on our shoulders, urging us to sin.
- Unlike some media depictions or descriptions, the Bible depicts Satan as real and the mortal enemy of God’s people.
- Believers in Christ can stand against Satan and remain faithful to God.

Study the Bible

REVELATION 12:7-9
Satan seeks to deceive us.

A war broke out in heaven between Michael and his angels and the dragon.

- Use the paragraph that begins “During the period in …” (pp. 8-9 in Advanced Bible Study) to discuss the suffering and faith of Christians at the time the Book of Revelation was written.
- Why did war break out in heaven? (See p. 10 in Advanced Bible Study.)
- Discuss John’s view of the world and the responsibility given to believers, using the paragraph that begins “Sometimes Christians …” (p. 10 in Advanced Bible Study).

The dragon and his angels could not prevail.

- Use the paragraph that begins “John encouraged his readers …” (p. 11 in Advanced Bible Study) to discuss the reason Satan’s defeat should encourage us today.

REVELATION 12:10
Satan seeks to accuse us.

Satan has been defeated and thrown down.

- How is Satan described in verse 10?
- Use the paragraph that begins “The term Satan …” (p. 15 in Advanced Bible Study) to discuss how Satan’s role is connected to his name.
- Satan is the accuser who holds no real power.
- Describe a time when someone brought a false accusation against you. What did that feel like?
- Discuss the imagery projected in verse 10, using the paragraph that begins “The defeat of the devil …” (pp. 15-16 in Advanced Bible Study).

REVELATION 12:11-12
Satan is relentless—but he is defeated.

Satan was conquered by the blood of the Lamb.

- Satan is not the evil counterpart to God; he is a limited being.
**THE POINT**

Satan fights against us, but we can stand in Christ.

- Discuss what it means that Satan was defeated "by the blood of the Lamb" (v. 11). (See p. 17 in Advanced Bible Study.)

See the article titled **THE LAMB IN REVELATION** on page 31 for a deeper understanding of Jesus as the Lamb.

- How can believers overcome Satan with their testimony? (See p. 17 in Advanced Bible Study.)

- What is your personal testimony about what God has done and is doing in your life?

**The heavens are encouraged to rejoice.**

- Discuss the reason for rejoicing. (See v. 12.)

- What warning does John give his readers in verse 12?

- Satan is relentless in his attacks on believers, but we can rejoice because he is a defeated foe.

- Use the paragraph that begins “This affirmation of the martyrs …” (p. 17 in Advanced Bible Study) to discuss how the verses fulfill one of John’s purposes for the Book of Revelation.

- The Book of Revelation testifies of the second coming of Jesus Christ, which is the transition between the old age and the new age.

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**Live It Out**

*How can believers overcome evil and stand against Satan?*

- Understand that Satan is real and is bent on our destruction.

- Understand that Satan is defeated by Christ.

- Die to self and follow Christ completely to overcome evil. (See Luke 9:23-24.)

Share the story from **DIG DEEPER** on the next page.
OPTIONAL IDEA

Obtain a cardboard box and write the word “EVIL” on one side. Place a pen, a hammer, a ten dollar bill, a smartphone, and a mirror in the box.

Place the box on a table in front of the class, and ask volunteers to come forward, select an item from the box, and explain how Satan could use it for evil purposes. Some possible answers could be:

- a pen: To write lies or spread falsehoods
- a hammer: To vandalize
- a ten dollar bill: To buy illegal drugs
- a smartphone: To view ungodly content
- a mirror: To have a poor or deceptive self-image

Ask: Are these items evil in and of themselves? Satan is relentless in his attacks against believers. He seeks to deceive us, and utilizes everything. Even the most mundane item can become a source of our defeat.

DIG DEEPER

People like a story that ends with the underdog overcoming the champion. One such underdog in the Bible who remained steadfast in the face of the enemy was Job. You know the story of Job, a man of “perfect integrity” (see Job 1:1), and how Satan took him to task after “roaming through the earth” and “walking around on it” (Job 1:7).

You are aware of how the story unfolds as Satan begins to attack everything Job owns, even his children. Although Satan was trying to defeat Job, the Scriptures record this testimony from Job after his first test by Satan: “The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Praise the name of the Lord” (Job 1:2).

His wife and three close friends even shared bad advice for Job during this intense time of testing. Job’s wife stated: “Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!” (Job 2:9). In an intense time of suffering, people do not always lead us to make the best decisions. We know the story ends with the Lord restoring Job’s health and possessions. Job chose to stand with God through it all even with bad advice from friends and his wife. Like Job, we should be careful as we endure Satan’s trials that can tempt us to doubt or be ineffective in our testimonies. The Lord was faithful throughout Job’s life to help him overcome Satan, and we can trust He will help us through our journey as well.