

LESSON PLAN

SATAN

Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Peter 5:6-9

Lesson Memory Verse: James 4:7 - "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Lesson Aim: Teach children that Satan is a powerful enemy; but he can be defeated by Christ' power.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): How many persons are in our classroom this morning? (Some will answer by counting the number of children and the teacher.) Actually there are more persons present, but we cannot see them. Who else is in this room? Yes, we know that God is here. Can you think of any others that might be in this room? Yes, a good angel may be in this room; we are told that one job of good angels is to help those who believe in Jesus (Heb 1:14). Also, Satan, or at least one of his evil angels, is here. He does not want you to hear about God and His work by learning what He tells us in the Bible. Satan wants to control your lives. He does not want you to receive Jesus as your Savior. If you have received Jesus as your Savior, he does not want you to live a good Christian life. So he probably has sent an evil angel to keep you from listening to this lesson. I am going to warn you about Satan and the evil things that he is doing. Do you think that he wants you to hear this lesson? No, so he will try to distract you and try to make you think about other things than the Bible lesson. You may wonder, "How can I defeat Satan in my life?" The Bible has the answer. Our memory verse tells Christians one way to defeat him.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse is found in James 4:7; it tells us to submit to God and resist the devil. Let's find out what that means. We cannot defeat the devil alone. We must depend on God to help us. That is what we do when we "submit to God." Then with His strength we can fight against the devil; we can "resist the devil." When we depend on God for strength, we do not have to do what is wrong and we can do what is right. That is how we "resist the devil." When we resist the devil in the power of God and refuse to obey him, he will flee from us, that is, he will run from us.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today, we are going to study about Satan. We must know our enemy so we can fight against him and win.

OUTLINE OF THE DOCTRINE

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time to teach section III since this is the main point of the lesson and has been designed to make the memory verse practical in the daily lives of the children.

I. Satan Is a Person – 1 Pet 5:8.

A. The Bible speaks of Satan as a person.

Some people picture Satan as an evil-looking man with pointed ears, horns and a tail who wears a red suit and carries a pitchfork. That may frighten you, but he is more powerful than that. The Bible calls him "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2). When God created Satan (Col 1:16), He made him perfect. He was a wise and beautiful angel, a leader of other angels in heaven. But Satan became proud. He stopped loving God and worshipping Him. He began to notice his own beauty and loved himself (Ezk 28:17). Then he became dissatisfied with the wonderful position God had given him. He wanted to be like God Himself (Is 14:12-14)! That is when God took away Satan's position. Next, God will take away Satan's power and cast him into the Lake of Fire. But right now, God has chosen to allow Satan to work in this world. Since Satan cannot be seen, people forget that he is real (other real things that cannot be seen are electricity and wind). But he is a real person and he is working very hard to defeat believers.

WE: We must not forget that Satan is a real person that makes plans to rule the world forever.

B. The conduct of Satan shows he is a person.

The Bible says he can **think** (Isa 14:13 - he "said in his heart..."); he can **feel** (Rev 12:12 – he has "great wrath"); and he can **make decisions** (Is 14:13-14 – he said, "I will"). That is what makes Satan a person.

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A body does not make someone a person. A statue has a body, but is not a person. God is a person, but does not have a body. Satan is a person, too, but does not have a body that can be seen.

WE: We must remember that Satan can think, feel and make decisions to make us his slaves. .

II. Satan Is Our Enemy – Eph 6:11-13; 1 Pet 5:8.

A. Satan caused the whole world to rebel against God.

When Satan got Adam to sin, he conquered the ruler of the world (Gen 1:26). With that victory, he became the ruler of the world (Lk 4:6; Eph 2:2). He is called the “god of this world” (2 Cor 4:4). He is the father of everyone who has not received Jesus as Savior (1 Jn 3:8, 10).

WE: We do not need to let him rule over us if we have asked Jesus to be our Savior.

B. Satan tried to keep Jesus from becoming our Savior.

- 1) He heard in the Garden of Eden that God would destroy him by His Son (Gen 3:15).
- 2) He tried to destroy Abraham’s people in Egypt (Ex 1) because God had promised to send His Son through Abraham’s people (Gen 12:3).
- 3) He tried again and again to destroy Abraham’s people (at the Red Sea, during Esther’s time, etc.).
- 4) He tried to kill Jesus when He was a baby through wicked King Herod (Mt 1:16-18).
- 5) He tried to make Jesus sin (Mt 4).
- 6) He thought he had defeated God when Jesus was betrayed by Judas (Jn 13:2; Lk 22:3).

.C. Satan tries to keep people from receiving Jesus as Savior - Matt 13:19; 2 Cor 4:3-4.

D. Satan tries to keep Christians from living for the Lord (Job 1-2; Lk 22:31; Act 5:3.

WE: We must count Satan as our worst enemy. Do you agree?

III. Satan Can Be Defeated.

A. Jesus defeated Satan.

Jesus defeated Satan when He died for us on the cross and rose from the dead. Jesus was the only one that could pay the penalty for the sins that Satan caused. Jesus paid the penalty by His death on the cross. Satan thought he defeated Jesus, but Jesus defeated him when He arose from the dead. His death fulfilled part of the very first prophecy that God gave (Gen 3:15): Satan “bruised” Jesus’ “heel” when Jesus was put on the cross. But Satan’s power was destroyed when Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead (Heb 2:14). When Jesus arose from the dead, He proved He had the power to bruise Satan’s “head.” That will be done when Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire (Rev 20:10). Then the first prophecy will be completely fulfilled.

WE: We should thank Jesus every day for dying for us and rising from the grave. If Jesus had not conquered death, we would all be on our way to Hell. When we receive Jesus as our Savior, He sets us free from Satan, from the power of sin and from eternal death in hell. Have you received Jesus as your Savior?

B. Christians can defeat Satan.

Christians can defeat Satan by depending on God .When they go to God and ask for His help, they are submitting themselves to Him as it says in our memory verse. They are admitting that they are too weak to fight against him in their own power. But they also are showing that they have faith in God. They believe that Jesus truly did defeat Satan and now they can resist Satan in the name of Jesus and they can conquer any temptation to sin that Satan presents to them (1 Cor 10:13). Christians also can use the word of God to defeat Satan like Jesus did when He was tempted (Mt 4:1-11). Here are some examples:

Satan’s temptation

“Worry”

God’s word for victory:

“Let not your heart be troubled” (Jn 14:1)

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“Gossip”	“Be kind one to another” (Eph 4:32)
“Love the world”	“Set your affections on things above (Col 3:2)
“Swear”	“Be holy for I am holy” (1 Pet 1:16)
“Covet”	“Be content with such things as you have” (Heb 13:5)
“Be afraid”	“Fear not, for I am with you” (Is 41:10)
“Be weak”	“Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33)
“Tell a lie”	“Speak every man truth with his neighbor” (Eph 4:25)

APPLICATION OF THE DOCTRINE: “Bruce Defeats Satan”

“Hey, Mom!” Bruce bounced down the stairs and into the living room with a big grin on his face. “Would you be sure to wake me a half hour early tomorrow morning?”

“Why, whatever for, dear?” Mother asked, looking over at Dad who sat by the fire reading.

“Because I made a very important decision today at Sunday school – I asked Jesus to be my Savior. Now I want to live the way He wants me to live.”

Tears came to Mother’s eyes. She hugged Bruce. Father put down his book. His eyes showed that he was glad, too. He and Mother had been praying for Bruce every day since he was a baby. Now, at last, their son was saved and would be going to Heaven with them.

“What brought you to your decision, Bruce?” Dad asked quietly.

“Well, Dad, I’ve been thinking about some things for a long time. I’ve always believed that Jesus died for me, but these last few weeks, I’ve been seeing what a sinner I really am. Satan sure has had a good time running my life! Family altar has been making me miserable. I guess it was the Holy Spirit convicting me inside. This morning Mr. Harper showed how unsaved people were prisoners to sin and to Satan. I knew that was true of me, so after class I asked him to pray with me, and I received Jesus into my life with his help. Now I’m going to show that old devil he’s not my boss anymore because I belong to Jesus.” Dad raised his eyebrows. “Just a minute, Son,” he said. “I think you misunderstand Satan. He’ll work harder than ever to defeat you now. He’s your enemy because you have chosen Jesus instead of him to rule your life.”

“Oh, I hadn’t thought of that, Dad.”

Dad went on, “Don’t be afraid of Satan as long as you are trusting in Jesus. He is much stronger than Satan. If you run to Him, He will help you defeat Satan.”

Then Mother said, “We’ll be praying that the Lord will give you victory over the devil.”

“Thanks, Mom. I’ll pray about that, too. Good night now.”

Bruce opened his eyes and looked at the clock. Surely that wasn’t Mother calling him to get up already. He pulled the covers over his head. “Only five more minutes,” he thought. “Then I’ll read my Bible. Five more minutes of sleep wouldn’t hurt anything.” He was just about to drift off into sleep when suddenly it hit him – Bruce sat straight up in his bed. “Oh, no you don’t, Satan,” he mumbled. “I am not going to be defeated by failing to go to Jesus. Bruce was wide awake now. He dressed and began his day by reading the Bible and praying to the Lord. As he finished praying, he asked the Lord to give him an opportunity to witness to someone during the day.

It was already noontime. Bruce had finished his lunch and was thinking about going out on the playground when he heard a voice beside him.

“Hi, Bruce. You’ll never guess what happened to me this weekend.” It was Allen Nelson, the smallest, quietest boy in his class. Bruce didn’t know Allen very well. Bruce was good in sports and had lots of friends. Nobody was really too interested in Allen. In fact, they called him “the pest.”

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“Oh, brother,” thought Bruce, “just what I need to make my day – a talk with the pest! How can I get rid of him?”

But before Bruce could say a word, he felt a terrible pang of guilt inside his heart. Jesus would never think of anyone as a pest. The Bible says, “Be kind one to another...”

“Satan,” Bruce thought, “you lose again. I’m going to be nice to Allen.” Bruce smiled, “I can’t guess what happened to you this weekend, Allen. Why don’t you tell me?”

Allen beamed. He told Bruce all about his trip to see a pro-ball game. His Dad had taken him. As Bruce listened, he became very excited inside. The Lord had given him the opportunity he’d prayed for that morning. When Allen finished, Bruce smiled. “Boy, Allen, that’s great! But I had a good weekend, too. You’ll never guess what happened to me.” Bruce told Allen all about the important decision he had made – how he had asked Jesus to be his Savior. Allen listened closely and seemed very interested. Then the bell rang and they had to hurry back to the classroom.

“Say, Allen,” Bruce said, “why don’t you come to Sunday school with me next Sunday?”

“Wow, Bruce! That would be great! I’ll ask my Mom tonight. I’ll call you when I find out if I can.”

Bruce’s heart was almost bursting with joy. “Lord,” he prayed silently, “I know You are going to save Allen. Thank you for using me. Thank you for defeating Satan at the cross and thank you for giving me victory over Satan today!”

BE (for Action): Bruce was ready to defeat Satan because he prayed and read his Bible to begin his day. How did Satan try to defeat him? (Let the children answer.) Does Satan ever work that way in your life? How many of you would like to defeat Satan this week like Bruce did? You can if you are saved and depend on God to help you. Let’s thank God for defeating Satan and ask Him to help you to fight against Satan this week so he will flee from you.