

**Who is Satan?**

Discuss as a group.

**Revelation 12:7-9 (NIV)**

*And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. <sup>8</sup> But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. <sup>9</sup> The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

**Satan is the Leader of the angelic revolt.**

**Revelation 12:12 (NIV)**

*Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."*

Though Satan was defeated and cast out of Heaven, he still continues his revolt here on earth until the Day of Judgment. God, in his sovereignty, sees that Satan can still fulfill a role in God's eternal purposes.

**John 8:44 (NIV)**

*You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

**Satan is the Originator of sin – the father of all who sin**

Jesus is speaking to the Pharisees who, despite all they've seen and heard from Jesus, still set their hearts on destroying him. In calling Satan a murderer, it is appropriate to remember that through his tempting of Eve he essentially murdered the entire human race. His temptation brought death to all mankind. The first expression of mankind's fall in the Bible was the murder of Abel by his brother Cain.

Satan accomplished all this through the power of a lie. He deceived Eve and continues to deceive the world. He truly is the Father of all lies.

**What is the extent of Satan's power? What are his limits?**

Discuss as a group.

**Job 1:6-12 (NIV)**

<sup>6</sup> One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. <sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

<sup>9</sup> "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. <sup>10</sup> "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. <sup>11</sup> But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

<sup>12</sup> The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

**What do we learn about Satan and his authority?**

Satan is on a Leash

Satan is limited in the amount of destruction he is allowed to exert in this world.  
Whatever he does, is always within God's parameters.

**What does everyone think about this?**

**Is it disconcerting to think God specifically allows Satan to work evil in this world?**

**Does this affect your view of God?**

Even Satan in all his rebellion, is still used by God for his holy purposes.  
Satan can only accomplish what fits into God's perfect plan.

**Job 1:13-15, 17 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup> One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, <sup>14</sup> a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, <sup>15</sup> and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>17</sup> While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

**Satan has the ability to influence ungodly people for evil. (Sabeans & Chaldeans)**

**2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)**

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**Job 1:16, 18--19 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>18</sup> While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, <sup>19</sup> when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

**Satan has the ability to control nature.**

**Job 2:7 (NIV)**

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.

**Satan has the ability to cause physical illness.**

**What is Satan's objective?**

Discuss as a group.

**Matthew 4:8-9 (NIV)**

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

**Satan wants to be God.**

Satan wants to be worshipped and followed. He wants to take the place of God in our lives. He has established his own kingdom, but it is a kingdom of darkness, set up in direct rebellion against the kingdom of Heaven.

**1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)**

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

**Satan wants to destroy mankind**

Satan has already been defeated by God and cast out of heaven. The only thing he can do to attack God, is to attack that which God loves – us! We are God's children, his heirs, and his heart's passion. Satan now exerts all his energy to not only keep us from God, but to also turn us against God and his purposes. In so doing, he makes certain we will experience his same fate – the lake of fire.

**Revelation 12:12 (NIV)**

*But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.*

**The Holy Courtroom****Zechariah 3:1-9 (NIV)**

*Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. <sup>2</sup> The Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"*

*<sup>3</sup> Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. <sup>4</sup> The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes."*

*Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you."*

*<sup>5</sup> Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the Lord stood by.*

*<sup>6</sup> The angel of the Lord gave this charge to Joshua: <sup>7</sup> "This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.*

*<sup>8</sup> "'Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. <sup>9</sup> See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.'"*

**Around 520 BC Zechariah received this vision regarding the future salvation of God's covenant people.**

**The scene is that of a courtroom over which God presides.**

**What role does Joshua, the High Priest, play in this vision?**

Joshua is the High Priest in Israel, and as such represents the people of God.

**What role does Satan play?**

Satan is the prosecutor accusing Joshua (representative of the people of God) guilty, of sin.

If they are guilty then God, being just, must give them the appropriate consequence – death.

It appears that in this passage, as well as in Job, Satan has been given access to come before God to accuse mankind of sin. Satan knows that if mankind is guilty then they cannot enter heaven and must face the same punishment that is awaiting him. This is Satan's legal argument to destroy mankind.

**Revelation 12:10 (NIV)**

*Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down."*

**Who is our defense attorney?**

The Angel of the Lord.

The Angel of the Lord is the physical representation of God in the Old Testament, and who we would better understand as the second person of the trinity, Jesus Christ. This is called a Christophany.

*Jesus is standing beside Joshua as his defense. Because of what Jesus will do in the future, God is able to say, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"*

**1 John 2:1 (NIV)**

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*

**In what way are Joshua and all the people of God, snatched from the fire?**

Those who enter covenant relationship with God are literally snatched from the fire – the lake of fire.

Without that relationship, our destiny, what we rightfully deserve, would have been the lake of fire. But God devised a means by which to rescue us from Satan's accusation.

**What is the significance of changing Joshua's clothing?**

The dirty clothing represents sin that defiles and condemns us. God removes our sin and gives us clean clothing or righteousness. We are now clothed with his righteousness and there is no more basis for any accusation from Satan.

**What is the significance of the stone with seven eyes?**

The stone with the seven eyes is representative of Jesus who will come in strength and perfect knowledge/understanding.

**NOTE:** The result of this stone being set in place is that sin will be removed in a single day!

**Does talking about Satan raise a tension in you, does it make you uncomfortable? Why or why not?**

**Do believers need to fear Satan? Why or why not?**

**1 John 4:4 (NIV)**

*You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

**1 John 5:18 (NIV)**

*We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.*

We don't need to be afraid of Satan, because the one who is in us (Jesus) is greater than the one in the world (Satan). Jesus is in control of all things; he keeps Satan on a leash, he limits what Satan can do and he is our ultimate protector.

**Jude 1:8-9 (NIV)**

*In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings.*

<sup>9</sup> *But even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"*

**What does the above passage indicate should be our attitude toward the angelic realm?**

We may not need to fear Satan, but we are still to respect his position, and that of the entire angelic realm. Though evil spirits may be cast out of heaven, they are still God's creation, they are powerful, they are given a certain degree of freedom, and they are to be respected. They come under God's authority and we need to be careful how we deal with them and speak about them.

**How might understanding the content of this study affect how we live this week?**

**For resolution to the story of Job, read Job chapters 38-42.**

## Miscellaneous Information for Personal Interest

### Possible prophetic allusion to Satan's downfall

These passages refer directly to earthly kings, but some scholars believe they may have a dual function of symbolizing the downfall of Satan as well.

Isaiah 14:12-15

Ezekiel 28:12-15

If not specifically about Satan, they still express the heart attitude of pride and rebellion that Satan exhibits.

### Some Descriptors of Satan

Abbadon (Destroyer)	Revelation 9:11
Accuser	Revelation 12:10
Angel of light	2Corinthians 11:14
Antichrist	1John 4:3
Beelzebub	Matthew 12:24
Belial	2Corinthians 6:15
Devil	1John 3:8
Dragon	Revelation 12:9
Enemy	Matthew 13:39
Father of lies	John 8:44
God of this age	2Corinthians 4:4
Leviathan	Isaiah 27:1
Murderer	John 8:44
Prince of demons	Matthew 12:24
Prince of this world	John 12:31-32
Roaring lion	1Peter 5:8
Ruler of the kingdom of the air	Ephesians 2:1-2
Satan	Mark 1:13
Serpent	Revelation 12:9
Tempter	Matthew 4:3
Thief	John 10:10
Wicked one	Ephesians 6:16

### Satan's Counterfeit Kingdom

Own Trinity	Revelation 16:13
Own Theology	1Timothy 4:1
Own Synagogue	Revelation 2:9
Own Preachers	2Corinthians 11:4-5
Own Sacrificial System	1Corinthians 10:20
Own Gospel	Galatians 1:6-7
Own Kingship	Revelation 13:2
Own Worshippers	Revelation 13:4
Own Miracles	2Thesalonians 2:9
Own Indwelling Spirits	Mark 1:32-34
False Christs	Matthew 24:4-5
False Teachers	2Peter 2:1
False Prophets	Matthew 24:11
False Brethren	Galatians 2:4
False Apostles	2Corinthians 11:13

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<b>DAY 1</b>		
<b>Romans 6:23 (NIV)</b> <i>For the wages of sin is death</i>	If God gave you what you truly deserve right now, what could you rightfully expect?	
<b>Romans 5:12 (NIV)</b> <i>Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—</i>	Do you sometimes get frustrated that God isn't "blessing" you more?  It's easy to forget the incredible grace of God and what it is that he rescued us from. In what ways have you taken the grace of God for granted lately?	
<b>1 Corinthians 15:26 (NIV)</b> <i>The last enemy to be destroyed is death.</i>	Are you living a joy-filled life simply on the basis that your life has been saved, or has joy been sapped from your life because you want more...and more?	
<b>Matthew 8:22 (NIV)</b> <i>But Jesus told him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."</i>	What did Jesus mean when he said let the dead bury the dead? In what ways were the people "dead", but still alive physically?  When others look at you, do they see "life" which they don't have?  Whenever we feel we need more to be content, we are testifying we don't already have life. As a result, we chase after things we don't really need.  What have you been chasing after that you can stop chasing right now?  How can your time, finances, and relationships reflect this?  Why not spend some time simply thanking God for the gift of a full life he has already given you through Jesus.	



PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<b>DAY 2</b>		
<b>Luke 4:5-6 (NIV)</b> <i>The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to."</i>	<p>Jesus doesn't debate Satan's claim to authority over the kingdoms. Why do you think this is?</p> <p>In what ways does Satan have rule here?</p> <p>How does Satan exercise this rule?</p>	
<b>Ephesians 2:1-3 (NIV)</b> <i>As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.</i>	<p>How has Satan's rule been exercised in your own life?</p> <p>Are there still ways in which you are allowing him to have authority?</p> <p>How has Jesus rescued you?</p>	
<b>Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV)</b> <i>For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.</i>	<p>How is living under Jesus' rule different for you than living under Satan's rule?</p> <p>If you are truly part of the kingdom of the Son, how might that affect how you live this week?</p>	
<b>Philippians 3:20 (NIV)</b> <i>But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,</i>	<p>Ask God to help you realize the full implications of living as a citizen of his kingdom.</p>	

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p><b>DAY 3</b></p> <p><b>Romans 6:1-10 (NIV)</b>  <i>What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup> By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup> Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.</i></p> <p><sup>5</sup> <i>If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. <sup>6</sup> For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin-- <sup>7</sup> because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.</i></p> <p><sup>8</sup> <i>Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup> For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. <sup>10</sup> The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.</i></p>	<p>What aspects of your life have died since you gave your life to Christ?</p> <p>Have there been some sinful behaviors that you have been set free from?</p> <p>Do you sometimes feel you still "have" to sin?</p> <p>Is your life being lived to the glory of God?</p> <p>How will that be reflected throughout your day?</p>	

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<b>DAY 4</b>		
<b>Romans 6:11-23 (NIV)</b>		
<p>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup> Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup> Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.</p>	<p>Are there any areas of your life you still need to put to death?</p>	
	<p>Is your body used solely for righteousness?</p>	
<p><sup>15</sup> What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. <sup>18</sup> You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.</p>	<p>Do you sometimes try to justify your sin?</p>	
	<p>We have been set free from sin's grasp. We don't have to sin any more. It's purely a choice.</p>	
<p><sup>19</sup> I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. <sup>20</sup> When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. <sup>21</sup> What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.</p>	<p>Isn't it exciting to realize you can actually become free of the things that bring shame into our lives?</p>	
	<p>What sins in your life can you let go of this week?</p>	

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<b>DAY 5</b>		
<b>Romans 8:1-17 (NIV)</b>		
<p>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup> The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>7</sup> the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup> Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation--but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, <sup>14</sup> because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. <sup>17</sup> Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.</p>	<p>Do you ever feel like you still deserve to be condemned for past failures? Does Satan ever whisper these thoughts to your mind?</p> <p>What should be your response be whenever you feel like beating yourself up for past sins?</p> <p>What are you allowing your mind to focus on?</p> <p>Do your thoughts glorify God, or represent your old nature?</p> <p>What evidence is there to show the Spirit of God is in your life?</p> <p>Are you free from fear or do you still question God's love for you as his child?</p> <p>What does it mean, practically, for you to be a co-heir with Jesus?</p>	