

Evil **How can I resist evil?**

The Devil is the source of much of the evil that we experience in our lives and see in the world around us. He hates God and God's people and his mission is to spite God by hurting what God loves most—human beings. The Devil tempts us, lies to us and accuses us, but God has given us all we need to take a stand against the Devil's work in our lives.

Questions:

- Who is your favorite super villain?
- Who do you think is the scariest?
- If you were a super villain, what would be your name?

The Devil

- + “For some people, believing in the Devil is easier than believing in God, because they can see so much radical evil all around us.” - Jason
- + Much of the evil in the world comes from selfish, hurtful choices made by people, but the Bible tells us that there are also evil spiritual forces at work in the world.
- + In Isaiah 14, there are hints that the Devil is a fallen angel who rebelled against God.
- + In the New Testament, the Devil—also known as Satan or the Enemy— is described as a personal, spiritual being who hates God and has leadership over many demons like himself.

- + “Take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” - Ephesians 6:11-12

Evil: How Can I Resist Evil?

- + “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” - John 10:10
- + The Devil wants to destroy everything God has made. He hates it. We don’t have to be afraid, though, because the Enemy only has a few techniques: he lies, he tempts, and he accuses.

What Does The Devil Do?

He Tempts

- + “This much is sure, every time the Devil tries to tempt you, he does it with the intent to hurt you.” - Jason
- + Sin takes you further than you want to go, keeps you longer than you want to stay, and costs you more than you want to pay.

He Accuses

- + In Revelation 12:10b, it says that the Devil accuses God’s people day and night.
- + There is a difference between God’s voice of conviction and the Enemy’s voice of condemnation. God’s conviction is clear and specific: it points to something in our lives that He wants us to change, while condemnation feels like a blanket of shame, guilt and hopelessness.
- + The Devil wants to weigh you down with guilt and shame. Jesus wants to set you free.

He Lies

- + “In John 8, Jesus calls the Devil ‘the father of lies’, as if to say, he lies about everything. He lies to us about God, about what is right and wrong, and about ourselves.” - Ben
- + The enemy wants us to believe the lie that God’s love and promises are for other people, but not for us.

Questions:

- What are some common lies that people believe about themselves? Or about God?

- What kind of lies do girls tell themselves? How about guys?

- Where do we get these lies from?

The Power Of Jesus

- + “For [God] has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” - Colossians 1:13
- + “Jesus pulls us out of the enemy’s grip and firmly plants us in the safety of God’s family.” - Jason

- How can you use your time, talents, money, and influence to resist evil in the world?

Overcome Evil With Good

- + It wouldn't be wise for us to ignore the Devil or pretend he doesn't exist, or to become obsessed with him.
- + There are clear warnings in the Bible against witchcraft and other occult practices because they open us up to darkness.
- + Jesus taught His disciples to pray: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." - Matthew 6:10
- + "Jesus demonstrated a life that pushed back the darkness in the world." - Ben
- + "[Some] believe it is only great power that can hold evil in check. That is not what I found: I found it is the small, everyday deeds of ordinary folk that keep the darkness at bay—small acts of kindness and love."¹⁰- Gandalf, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." - Romans 12:21

Reflection Questions

- What did you think about today's episode?

- What stood out to you?

- What is an example of evil at work in the world today?

- Ben and Jason said that the Devil has three tactics: he lies to us, accuses us, and tempts us. Can you think of a time in your life when you've experienced one of these?

- Jason and Ben mentioned that there is often a spiritual struggle as we get closer to God. Have you experienced this, in any way, on your spiritual journey?