

C-Group Study Guide

Escaping the Enemy



Cultivating our Community for Christ
1 Cor. 3: 6-9

Calendar

Nov. 6	1 Pet. 5:8; Job 1; Gen. 3:1-6; Matt. 4:1-11; 2 Cor. 2:11
Nov. 13	Ephesians 6:10-18
Nov. 20	Revelation 20

2022 Connection Groups

<u>Leader(s)</u>	<u>Demographic</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
Gillispie	Ladies	CBC Prayer Room	WED. – 10:00 A.M.
Jennings	Open Group	Parsley Home	WED. – 5:30 P.M.
Howards	Open Group	Howard Home	WED. – 6:00 P.M.
McHale	Open Group	McHale Home	WED. – 5:30 P.M.
Barricklows	Open Group	Barricklow Home	WED. – 6:30 P.M.
Reynolds	Open Group	Reynolds Home	WED. – 7:00 P.M.
Simpkins	Open Group	Simpkins Home	WED. – 7:00 P.M.

Helpful Tips for Studying Scripture

Below are some helpful questions to ask and answer when reading, understanding, and applying scripture to our lives. You do not need to answer all these questions as part of each week, but as you read through the passages you are encouraged to keep these questions nearby to enhance your experience reading God's word.

Understanding the Bible

- 1. What do we learn about God?**
 - a. Look for God's character (who he is, what he is like).
 - b. Look for God's conduct (what he is doing).
 - c. Look for God's concerns (what things, events, and people he is concerned about).
- 2. What do we learn about people?**
 - a. Look for aspects of what it means to be created in God's image.
 - b. Look for fallen condition
 - c. Look for how God's people should live.
- 3. What do we learn about relating to God?**
 - a. Look for things to praise and thank God for.
 - b. Look for sin to confess and repent.
 - c. Look for promises and truths to believe.
- 4. What do we learn about relating to others?**
 - a. Look for how we should interact with and treat others.
 - b. Look for ways to pursue reconciliation with others.
 - c. Look for specific ways to love, serve, and care for others.

Applying the Bible

- 1. What does God want me to understand?**
- 2. What does God want me to believe?**
- 3. What does God want me to desire?**
- 4. What does God want me to do?**

Content taken from Dr. Matthew Harmon's book, *Asking the Right Questions*, Crossway, 2017. Used with permission.

Knowing the Enemy

Background:

The primary witness to the existence of Satan is not personal experience or sensational stories, but the truthful explanation of scripture itself. Both the Old and New Testament affirm the existence of the person and work of the great adversary, Satan. He appeared as a serpent in Genesis 3 where his judgment was pronounced. He is mentioned in Job 2 when he brings accusations against Job before God. Satan led David to take a census of Israel in 1 Chronicles 21:1, and he is also seen accusing the nation before God in Zechariah 3:1-2. In the New Testament, the same is seen. 19 of the books comprising the New Testament make mention of him and every writer is included in this. Jesus himself makes mention of Satan 25 times.

Satan reflects *intellect* as seen by his schemes, deception, and knowledge of scripture (Eph. 6:11; Rev. 12:9). His *emotion* is seen in his desire to exalt himself above the rule of God (Isa. 14:12-17). He also displays that he has a will through his desire to entice Christ to sin (Matt. 4:3) and it is most clearly reflected in his wish to be like God.

He is known by many names including Devil, Evil One, Serpent of old, Beelzebul, god of this world, prince of the power of the air, enemy, tempter, murderer, liar, accuser.¹ One of the largest dangers within the church today is extremism in this area; either attributing too much to the power of Satan, or in the case of the Western church, not attributing anything to spiritual warfare. Jon Bloom summarizes this well in saying; “Western evangelicals in general are not in danger of an overapplication of demonization. We are far more in danger of under-application — of a functional, unbiblical naturalism.”²

To be on guard, the Christian needs to have a healthy understanding of the enemy without having too engrossed a fascination with the occult. Understand who Satan and his minions are, but know that we serve the Almighty who is sovereignly in control over all things including His enemies.

¹ Paul Enns, *The Moody Handbook of Theology*, 304.

² Jon Bloom, *We Dare Not Ignore the Devil*, desiringgod.org

The Strategy of Satan

Connect: How have you experienced spiritual warfare in your life?

Interpret:

1. What strategies does Satan use as found described in scripture?
 - a. 1 Pet. 5:8
 - b. Job 1
 - c. Gen. 3:1-6
 - d. Matt. 4:1-11
 - e. 2 Cor. 2:11

2. What are ways we combat these schemes found in the context of the following passages?
 - a. 1 Pet. 5:8
 - b. Job 1
 - c. Gen. 3:1-6
 - d. Matt. 4:1-11
 - e. 2 Cor. 2:11

Apply: How do we combat spiritual warfare as a community of believers rather than just individuals?

The Devil's Doom

Revelation 20

Connect: What have you understood heaven to be like? Where did you get your info for your conclusion? Has your understanding changed as you've grown?

Interpret:

1. What symbolism do you see in Revelation 20? How do you feel this is best understood (literal, figurative, combination of both) and why? How does your understanding of the end times influence how you live now?

2. What does it mean that Satan was bound for 1000 years? What deeper reality does this reveal regarding his power as compared to the Almighty?

Apply: If Christ were to return to judge the world now, how do you think the world/church would fair? Is this convicting to how you are living currently? Why or why not?



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