



# FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

## KNOW HIS POWER OVER DECEPTION

STUDY BY

**DEBBIE ANDERSON**  
*COTE D'IVOIRE, WEST AFRICA*

GUIDE BY

**CAROLYN MICHAEL**  
*HUNTSVILLE, AL*

**GOAL: To know the exceeding greatness of God's power over deception.**

**GUIDANCE: Genesis 3; Luke 4; Genesis 12, 16, 27; Hebrews 4:14-16**

**GEMS: Scriptures located at the beginning of each week's lesson.**

### LEADER PREPARATION AND GUIDELINES

- (1) Each person needs a Bible, 3x5 cards, and a notebook for use as a journal.
- (2) Begin each lesson with prayer and ask for the Holy Spirit to guide you.
- (3) Familiarize yourself with the material for each study and answer all the questions.
- (4) Stress memorization of the Scriptures.
- (5) Lead with enthusiasm and excitement. Remember, you set the tone.
- (6) Use the ideas in the *WNAC Program and Plan Book: THAT YOU MAY KNOW*.
- (7) Encourage each lady in your church to attend the study. Give invitations.
- (8) Start and end your meetings on time. Value the participant's time.
- (9) Allow time for ladies to share their own thoughts, but keep personal experiences to a minimum.  
You want to stress what the Bible says.
- (10) Allow time for fellowship either at the beginning of class or the end.

### INTRODUCTION

When I think about my greatest fears, I think of snakes. I really do not like snakes.

They are horrible, nasty, disgusting creatures. (Sorry, if that offends anyone.) Why God created snakes is still a great mystery to me. You might contend that they are good for controlling other pests, but I'm sure someone would have come up with a way to keep the mice population or whatever down quite nicely without their help.

My grandfather was bitten by a cottonmouth water moccasin when I was just a little girl. He almost died and would have if the bite had been anywhere but his little finger. Then there was the time I was picking blackberries, and picked a green snake instead. I'm surprised that I'm still not running and screaming. Snakes are definitely not my ideal of pets or friends. I always want to avoid them even at the zoo or museums.

What if Eve had known to fear the serpent? Things might have been different for us. There would not be any sin or corruption to mar this world or our lives. Everything would still be perfect. But because of his lies, Satan managed to change the course that God had arranged for His creation. That's just another reason in my book to dislike snakes.

This Bible study is a definite need in our day and age. I've never seen times like these—when Satan is getting such a foothold in people's lives. They are being deceived and hoodwinked on a



daily, hourly, minute basis on so many different levels. Ladies, read, study and pray this month as never before. We must know God's Word, learn to apply it in our lives, and stay prayed up to be able to overcome the deceptions that Satan throws our way. Our only hope is in Christ. He'll be our protection and our guide when these things come in view. Approach this study knowing that the serpent is waiting for his chance at you, but confident that Jesus is there for you if you get bitten..

## WEEK ONE: SOURCE OF DECEPTION *(Genesis 3)*

- ⊗ Write this week's Scripture GEM in your journal. *"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:3).*
- ⊗ Go over the questions and answers for Week 1 on pp. 12-13.
- ⊗ Do you like snakes? Why or why not? *(I had to ask. To be fair, "snake" was not actually mentioned in this passage in Genesis 3, but the term "serpent" is typically a symbol for snake.)*
- ⊗ Is Satan or sin ugly? *(Not always. Second Corinthians 11:14 describes Satan as "an angel of light.")*

**LEADER'S NOTE:** The Hebrew word for serpent is "nachash" which means "to shine, or in the noun form, "a shining one." Satan probably appeared to Eve as this angel of light, a shining being, all glorious to behold. Commentaries say that he probably didn't look like a talking snake, although he could have been if God wanted him to be.

- ⊗ What does the word, "subtle" mean? *(crafty or cunning)*
- ⊗ In what area(s) of your life has Satan deceived you into believing a lie?
- ⊗ How have you overcome his lie?
- ⊗ Why do you think Adam listened to Eve?
- ⊗ Do you always make the right choices in your life? *(We tend to be hard on Adam, but Eve did have a choice.)*
- ⊗ Think of a time when your choice changed the course of things in your life. Share briefly if it doesn't hurt or offend anyone in your group.
- ⊗ Do you enjoy being lied to? *(I doubt anyone does. This alone should make us more determined to always tell the truth.)*
- ⊗ What should we do when Satan tempts? *(See Ephesians 6:11; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 4:27.)*
- ⊗ Read 2 Corinthians 2:9-11. Paul knew that Christians have to be careful What did he warn against? *(Satan's devices)*
- ⊗ In your journal, write one way Satan deceived you and what you did to overcome this deception.
- ⊗ Close in prayer. Thank God for Jesus, our antidote for sin.

## WEEK TWO: SUSCEPTIBILITY TO DECEPTION *(2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 1 John 2:15-17; Luke 4:1-13)*

- ⊗ Memorize the GEM for this week. Write it on a 3x5 card for review. *"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matthew 6:13).*
- ⊗ Go over the questions and answers for Week Two, pp. 13-14.
- ⊗ Of the 3 P's, which do you battle the most?



- ⊗ Does it seem like some people are more susceptible to deception than others?
- ⊗ Do you think you are immune from deception? (*See 1 Corinthians 10:12; Matthew 26:41.*)
- ⊗ What do you do when you are faced with temptation? (*See Proverbs 1:10; Romans 6:13; Proverbs 4:14; Ephesians 6:13.*)
- ⊗ Several New Testament Scriptures warn against deceit. Let's look at some: Matthew 24:4-5; Ephesians 5:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:3; and 1 John 3:7.
- ⊗ Do we ever fall into self-deception, deceiving ourselves into thinking the wrong way? (*Resources in the back of my Bible list these avenues of self deception: Self esteem—Psalm 36:2; Spiritual bondage—Isaiah 44:20; Conceit—Galatians 6:3; Careless hearing—James 1:22; Unbridled tongues—James 1:26; Sanctimony—1 John 1:8.*)
- ⊗ According to 2 Peter 3:17, we are to beware of evil and be on our guard.
- ⊗ Think of an incident involving deception that's been in the news recently. Briefly describe it.
- ⊗ Does deception hurt only the person being deceived? (*No, it hurts many people.*)
- ⊗ Make an entry in your journal detailing a plan to overcome a personal temptation of pleasure, power or pride. Find applicable Scriptures to help you gain victory this issue; write them down.
- ⊗ Close in prayer. Ask God to give you wisdom and discernment to be able to recognize deception and to withstand temptation.

### WEEK THREE: SIGNS (SYMPTOMS) OF DECEPTION (*Genesis 12:14-20; 16:1-6; 27:1-46*)

- ⊗ Write the GEM for this week in your journal. "*Then Jesus said to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed, and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (John 8:31-32). Review this verse often.
- ⊗ Go over questions and answers for Week Three, pp. 15-16.
- ⊗ Don't you just love for everyone to tell you the truth? (*I do, because it's so much better than being lied to.*)
- ⊗ God reveals truth throughout His Word. But do we believe it?
- ⊗ Where does deception come from? (*From within our heart—Mark 7:20-23; Jeremiah 17:9.*)
- ⊗ Are there people who make it their job to deceive others? (*Yes, it's been that way since the beginning of time. Read Jeremiah 5:26-28.*)
- ⊗ Do you know of incidences where someone has been deceived or scammed?
- ⊗ How do you feel when you hear that an elderly person has been bilked out of their life savings by some scam artist? Does it make you angry?
- ⊗ Should you be upset when you buy a product that doesn't live up to its advertising?
- ⊗ How do we recognize deception or a deceiver?
- ⊗ Make an entry in your journal of these tactics Satan uses, so that you can be on guard against them. Begin by writing James 1:14-15 at the top of your page. (1) His first tactic is to arouse desire to do wrong, to create a hunger, a love or enticement toward evil. (2) to permit intent to form and an act to occur, it takes time for temptation to be acted on. (3) The devil immediately acts upon the opportunity afforded by the evil act to move in and produce results which Scripture describes as death. (*taken from Ray Steadman Studies*)



⊗ Close in prayer, thanking God for the Holy Spirit's guidance and asking for strength to stand firm in your convictions.

#### WEEK FOUR: SOLUTIONS TO DECEPTION *(Hebrews 4:14-16; Revelation 19:11-16)*

⊗ Write 2 Corinthians 2:14, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ," on a 3x5 card to memorize this week.

⊗ Go over the questions and answers for Week 4, p. 17.

⊗ Why is grace so important to us as Christians? *(We're saved by grace—Titus 2:11; Acts 15:11; God's grace is sufficient for us—2 Corinthians 12:9; He became poor for us—2 Corinthians 8:9.)*

⊗ If you have been hurt and deceived, what are you doing to get back on track with your life?

⊗ Is there any truth in our lives? *(God's Word is true and we can depend on it and the Holy Spirit for direction.)*

⊗ Commit this Scripture to memory for your strength: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

⊗ How do you help someone caught up in the deceptions of this world? *(Love them, be a friend, pray for them, study Scriptures together and listen.)*

⊗ Are there rewards for overcoming temptation and deception? *(See 1 John 2:17, 5:5; Revelation 2:26; 3:5, 21 and 21:7.)*

⊗ Do you try to put each of the holy habits, pp. 17-18, into practice in your life?

⊗ Which of them are difficult for you to accomplish?

⊗ As suggested, write the verses provided next to each habit in your journal.

⊗ Close in prayer. Ask God to put a protective hedge around Bible study participants, shielding them from deceptions that may enter their lives.

#### IN CLOSING...

Going into a deep, dark cave is a terrifying experience for some. Feeling like you're being lied to is somewhat similar—with no way out and no light at all.

It's totally scary. Being deceived on any level is dangerous and oppressing. Yet, we've all been deceived at some point in our lives. The feeling when we learn the truth is illuminating—as if a spotlight has been turned on in the cave. The deception may have been minor or very serious. It really doesn't matter. It's not a good thing.

Thankfully, God's Word and His Holy Spirit are both antidote and cure for deception. As you read the Word and obey the Spirit, your chances of being deceived will be significantly diminished. Don't go around distrusting everyone because you are afraid of being duped. Do stay on your toes regarding what God deems right and wrong. He's the only source of absolute truth and authority.