

In closing...

It's true. We are engaged in spiritual warfare with the oldest enemy there is—an enemy by the name of Satan. We need to respect him for the havoc and damage he can cause, but we don't need to fear him. He is not all-powerful, all-knowing, or all-seeing. We tend to give him too much credit when we say, "The devil made me do it!" No, the devil only puts the temptation in our path. He is the one who deceives the whole world. Satan is a murderer and liar. He doesn't fight fair, and we need to stay alert. But a word of encouragement: God is our deliverer. God is faithful. God is our strong tower. Run to Him and find protection. Give God honor and glory in your life by resisting Satan and removing the target.

The Book of First John refers to Christians as "little children" who have overcome the wicked one (1 John 2:13; 4:4). Don't you want to be known as God's little child? Abide in Him and when Jesus shall appear, we will have confidence and not be ashamed before Him. Praise God!



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE APRIL 2013

Study by
Lynette Morgan

Guide by
Carolyn Michael

As I started this study, I felt a strong need for prayer. I know how the enemy can strike, and it always presents problems. The previous studies have all been personal in one way or another, and this one is no exception. It reveals tactics that Satan uses every day to try to disrupt my life, your life, all of our lives in one area or another.

I like to think my marriage is as strong as a Christian marriage can be. This August, my husband and I will celebrate our 45th anniversary. Yet, we have to constantly be on guard for situations Satan throws at us. Happy couples might as well have a big bullseye on their backs. Satan loves to pounce and attack either the wife or husband, which leads to many different areas of conflict. He is all over that.

If he can't get us to throw in the towel with our marriages, he comes at us through our families. He attacks us where we live. Small arguments turn into huge misunderstandings. Little irritating habits become large obstacles. Children become burdens instead of blessings. Family feuds can last a lifetime. Remember the Hatfields and McCoys?

When Satan targets our bodies, we are open to many varied types of attacks: apathy, depression, immobility and many other issues. Here again, I know this personally. Cancer, deteriorating discs, endometriosis, back problems and other illnesses have all touched me. Thankfully Satan didn't get the best of me with these things. He tried but God was stronger.

Church is the final target we explore in the study. Church break-ups are never pleasant. Satan tries to get in the front door of every church building and cause mayhem at every turn. Our best defense is knowing the King of Kings and living under the protection of His Mighty Hand. Rest in the fact that God will shelter and keep us safe when Satan aims his arrows straight at us. Knowing we are his targets, we must learn to duck.



ENEMY TARGETS

Our Marriages

HANDPRINT: We must work to preserve our marriages from enemy fire.

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART (to be memorized): “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Genesis 2:24).

- Do you find it hard to memorize? The Scriptures this month are so very important in our defense against Satan. Try extra hard to commit them to your memory and heart. Go over them every day.
- Take a quick group survey. Who has been married longest? Shortest?
- Why does God consider marriage important? (*Highlight this sentence in Treasure [p. 22, 2nd paragraph]: “The marriage relationship serves as an object lesson of the relationship God desires to have with His church.”*)
- How does God refer to His church in Revelation 19:7 and 22:17? (*wife, the bride*) Who is the bridegroom? (*Jesus—Matthew 9:15; Revelation 21:2*)
- Why does God place so much emphasis on the husband in marriages? (*1. Adam was created first—Genesis 2:23; 2. Men are to be the leaders—Joshua 24:15; 3. Husbands are to love their wives—Ephesians 5:25; 4. Women are to be given honor—I Peter 3:7.*)
- Do wives have any responsibilities in marriage? (*Yes. Read 1 Peter 3:1; Proverbs 31:27; 1 Timothy 3:11; 1 Corinthians 7:10.*)
- Does Scripture say that love is important in a marriage? (*Definitely, yes. Ephesians 5:28, 33; Colossians 3:19; Song of Solomon 8:7; Titus 2:4*)
- Why does Satan want to tear marriages apart? (*To destroy the foundation of the home—Matthew 7:24-29.*) What should that foundation be built upon? (*Jesus—Matthew 7:25.*)
- How can a wife/woman help create a good atmosphere in the home? (*Attitude—Proverbs 15:13; (2) Honor/love—Esther 1:20; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Industrious—Proverbs 31:27; Fear of the Lord—Proverbs 31:30; Prayer—Romans 12:12.*)
- Satan does target our marriages. Mention the rating scale in Treasure, p. 23. Encourage women to share their improvement ideas in these areas.
- Use a notebook or start a journal. List positive qualities in your husband. Circle what you love most about him. Make a mental note to go home and tell him what he means to you. Consider writing him a love poem.
- Dismiss in prayer. Ask God to strengthen your marriage and help you to be the wife for your husband that God desires.



ENEMY TARGETS

Our Families

HANDPRINT: We see the havoc resulting from enemy attacks in our families.

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART (to be memorized): “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward” (Psalm 127:3).

- Have someone read *Treasure*, p. 24, aloud to the group. Encourage each woman to highlight phrases that relate to her most.
- If your children are grown, can you still relate? Name some areas Satan targets in them? (*Relationships, peers, habits, addictions, thought life and heart [See Vision, p. 47 in Treasure], finances, work places, etc.*)
- When did Satan start targeting families? (*He began with the first family and he's targeted families ever since—Genesis 4:6-7; 1 John 3:12.*)
- Why did Cain kill Abel? (*Jealousy, hatred, anger and bitterness because God didn't accept his offering—Genesis 4:3-8.*) Note how Adam and Eve had taught their boys to worship God by bringing Him offerings (Genesis 4:3).
- Did Cain escape punishment for the murder? (*No, he was cursed—Genesis 4:11.*) What was the curse? (*That the earth would not yield full strength when he planted crops and he would be a fugitive and vagabond—Genesis 4:12-14*) Why was this a punishment? (*Cain found pleasure and pride in growing and harvesting. For the ground not to yield to his touch would be a slap in the face.*)
- Read Genesis 4:15. What else did God do to Cain? (*Set a mark on him so no one would kill him.*) Why? (*God still loved Cain. He showed him mercy and grace, allowing him time to repent.*) Think of someone in your family to whom God has shown mercy, giving them more time to come to Him (2 Peter 3:9.)
- Yet, Abel's blood cried out from the ground. Should someone have taken Cain's life? (*Vengeance belongs to the Lord—Hebrews 10:30; Psalm 94:1.*)
- What are some destructive things that tear families apart today? (*Divorce, adultery, finances, ungrateful children, childlessness, death*) Do you understand how Satan is the culprit in each of these? (Matthew 13:38-39, 26:41)
- How can families stay strong against the devil? (By watching—1 Peter 5:8; By not giving him a place—Ephesians 4:26-27; By resisting him—James 4:7; By staying strong in the Lord—Ephesians 6:11.)
- My pastor recently noted, “The only earthly possessions we can take to Heaven with us are our children.” Do you agree that this is a wise statement?
- Dismiss in prayer, specifically asking God to protect your family against the Enemy's attacks.



ENEMY TARGETS

Our Bodies

HANDPRINT: We resolve to make our bodies a fit residence for God.

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART (to be memorized): “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

- Write the Handwriting verse on a 3x5 card and in your journal. Under it, list ways you are taking care of your body.
- Go over the questions and answers in *Treasure*, p. 26.
- Of the five health issues listed, which is hardest for you to maintain? Why? Is it pleasant to be around people who neglect these things?
- What happens to our bodies as we grow older?
- Has there ever been a period of time when your body gave you cause for neglecting the things of God?
- What did Paul say of his infirmities(illnesses/afflictions)? (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
- Should we have that attitude when we can’t do as we’d like because of certain afflictions? (Think of Job; he came forth as gold—Job 23:10.)
- It’s clear that God means for us to treat our bodies with respect because of the indwelling Holy Spirit. What does He tell us our body is? (The temple of the Holy Spirit—2 Timothy 1:14; 2 Corinthians 6:16.)
- Name some means Satan uses to destroy human bodies. (Drugs, alcohol, food—too much, too little, wrong kind, sex [outside of marriage], lack of exercise, overworking, too little sleep, and the list goes on.)
- Our natural bodies won’t live on this earth forever. (Psalm 49:10; Ecclesiastes 8:8; Hebrews 9:27)
- And who caused man to have to die? (Satan—Romans 5:12)
- The good news is, we know who has the power to destroy death. (Jesus—Isaiah 25:8; 1 Corinthians 15:26; 2 Timothy 1:10)
- What happens to our bodies at death? (They decay.)
- What happens to the bodies who die in the Lord? (Rest from their labours—Revelation 14:13; Will be changed and fashioned like His glorious body—Philippians 3:21; Puts on immortality—1 Corinthians 15:54; Will be redeemed from the grave—Psalm 49:15.)
- Dismiss in prayer. Ask God for good health and wisdom to maintain it, but also pray for peace and strength in the midst of health problems



ENEMY TARGETS

Our Churches

HANDPRINT: We can identify the work of the Enemy in our churches.

HANDWRITING ON THE HEART (to be memorized): “For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church” (Ephesians 5:29).

- Work through each section of *Treasure*, p. 29. Do you see the devil’s tactic in churches today?
- Was there anything “right” about these seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3? Look for positive qualities. (EPHESUS: an active church with perseverance—2:2-3; SMYRNA: saints were known; suffered for Christ—2:9-10; PERGAMOS: steadfastness, didn’t deny the faith—2:13; THYATIRA: good works, faith, patience—2:19; SARDIS: had a few saints—3:4; PHILADELPHIA: loyal, didn’t deny God’s name—3:8; LAODICEA: nothing positive recorded—3:15.)
- In Revelation 3:16, what did God say He would do to the Laodiceans? (Spew them out of His mouth) Why? (They were neither cold nor hot.) Would we want God to use this approach with churches today or with us?
- Which of the seven churches would you want your church to pattern? (Probably Philadelphia because of the keeping of “the Word”, which is the testimony of all earnest spiritual churches—Revelation 3:8.)
- What did God promise overcomers (of false teachings, false doctrines, evil associations, apathy, blatant sinners and backsliders)? (Heavenly food—2:7; Crown of life—2:10; Spiritual blessings, new name—2:17; Robe of Righteousness—3:5; Would be spiritual pillars—3:12; Divine fellowship—3:21.)
- Just as Satan wants to destroy our human bodies, he wants to destroy the Body of Christ. What or who is the Body of Christ? (The Church—Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 12:27.)
- Were Christians in the early church free to worship as they pleased? (No, they were persecuted—Acts 8:1; Hebrews 11:36-38.)
- Is there persecution of the church today? (Yes. All over the world, alarming numbers of Christians are persecuted. See www.persecution.com.) This kind of persecution may soon (if not already) be knocking on the door of America and our own churches. Do you know of any persecuted Christians here?
- Sing (or read) “Onward Christian Soldiers” (REJOICE!, p. 614). Notice the phrase, “Satan’s hosts must flee.” That will be quite a day, don’t you agree? What will happen to Satan when Jesus returns to this earth to reign? (He will be tossed into the Lake of Fire—Revelation 20:10.)
- Dismiss in a prayer for deliverance from the Evil One. Ask God to place a hedge of protection around each person, marriage, family and your church.