

WEEK 1

MAN CHOSE REBELLION

SATAN WANTS US TO REJECT GOD'S AUTHORITY

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

THE FOUR KEYS . . .

KEY VERSE

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
1 Peter 5:8

KEY IDEAS

1. Satan rejected God's authority but is still subject to it.
2. Satan speaks lies and twists truth to tempt us to reject God's authority.
3. What Satan means for evil, God uses for His good purposes.

KEY PASSAGE

Genesis 3
Ezekiel 28:14-16, Luke 10:18, Job 1:6-7, 12

KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

Satan rejected God's authority and wants us to as well, but Satan cannot do anything to us unless God allows him to. What Satan means for evil God can always use for good.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

confident that God is more powerful than Satan and comforted that God has full authority over Satan.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

recognize temptation and stand on God's word to fight against it.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to reject temptation and follow the God who loves them and gives good commands.

INTRODUCTION

From the very beginning, Satan was created as the beautiful angel Lucifer. According to Ezekiel, Satan rebelled against God, because all of God's created beings have free will to choose Him. Satan wanted to replace God, his very Creator, because he was not content in what God had created him for. Creation is not greater than its Creator, so because of Satan's rebellion and pride, he was cast out of heaven by God with all the fallen angels who followed his lead. God temporarily allows Satan freedom on the earth and Satan uses it for evil purposes. However, what Satan means for evil, God uses for good. Trials and temptations can produce in us an even greater faith and love for God. God promises that all things work for good for those who love Him (Rom. 8:28), even though we don't always see or understand His ways in the moment. Satan rebelled against God, and he wants all of God's creation to as well. So, he roams the earth, lying and twisting the truth, so that he can lead as many to rebel against God as possible. There are always consequences to sinful rebellion, and ultimately all those who have rebelled against God and choose not to repent will be punished, including Satan.

OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Ask for a volunteer and instruct them that you will give them \$5 if they bark like a dog for 5 seconds. Afterward, congratulate them on a job well done and hand them \$5 of monopoly money or paper money. When they seem disappointed, say "I told you I'd give you \$5 but I didn't say it would be real." Explain that Satan wants to deceive us and he uses tricks just like this to make us question God's truths. Sometimes those lies even look and sound close to the truth. This is exactly what he did to Adam and Eve. He twisted the truth in his question to Eve and ultimately led her to be tempted and sin. Satan rejected God's authority and he wants us to, too, because he hates when we trust and follow God.

KEY IDEAS

Read Genesis 3 and Ezekiel 28:14-16 and Job 1:6-7, 12. Then use the following points for guided discussion.

- Satan rejected God's authority.
 - Why did God cast Satan out of heaven? Satan wanted to be God and he chose to rebel.
 - What does Satan do now? God allows Satan freedom to roam the earth for a time because God has a purpose in it but that freedom is limited. Satan can do nothing without God's permission. God has a purpose in allowing Satan the freedom to deceive. (1 Cor. 10:13, Job 1:12)
- Satan wants to destroy all that God has created. (John 8:44)
 - Why does God allow Satan to tempt us? God allows us to be tempted by Satan so that our faith can be tested and, therefore, strengthened so we can develop an even deeper love for God and his truth. It is when we successfully pass through trials and temptations that God teaches us and shapes us and we grow in spiritual maturity. So, God uses what Satan means for harm to bring about good. (James 1:2-4, Gen. 50:20) But, ultimately the choice to sin is ours. We can only be tempted by Satan to do the things that we already desire to do by our sinful nature. Each time we choose to reject Satan's lies, our faith in the truth grows.
 - Will God allow Satan to do this forever? How will he be punished? God has a plan for Satan's punishment. He will not allow Satan to go on lying forever. In God's mercy, He allows us time and freedom to choose Him, and He lovingly calls to us and pursues us to follow. God is also just, and He will not allow sin to go unpunished forever.
- Satan speaks lies and hides truth to keep us from trusting God.
 - How did Satan deceive Eve? Satan tempted Eve by twisting the truth of what God had said. When she began to question the truth, she began to desire the fruit she had been commanded not to eat. When that desire grew, temptation grew and she chose to sin. Once she desired the fruit, it was easy to believe the lie and justify the sin. You wouldn't be tempted to lie to your parents about being sick so that you could miss school if you wanted to go to school in the first place. Satan tries to make sin look desirable to us. The lie is thinking that the sin is a better option than following God, but there are always consequences to sin.
 - How can we guard ourselves against Satan's lies? Knowing and trusting God's word helps us reject the lies.

Activity

Play a game of "Telephone". Sit in a circle and begin by quietly whispering a sentence to the child next to you. They will then whisper what they heard to the next child. Go around the circle until it comes back to you. There should be some confusion about the true sentence. Explain that often times Satan tempts us by whispering something that sounds close to the truth but is just a little off. It leaves us doubting what the truth actually is and that doubt can cause us to question God and choose to sin.

Prayer

Thank God that Satan only has the power God allows him to have and that God never allows us to be tempted beyond what we can bear. Thank God for always providing a way out of our temptations, and ask God to help you recognize that way out. Ask God to help you desire to obey more than you desire to sin.

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

ACTIVITY

Memorize the key verse 1 Peter 5:8.

Take turns sharing examples of ways you have been tempted to sin while doing something fun like cooking a meal together. Use the discussion questions below to facilitate the conversation.

DISCUSSION

- What are some ways you have been tempted before?
- What was the sin you desired that caused you to be tempted?
- How did you respond to the temptation? Did you sin? If you chose obedience that time, what is another example of a time when you chose the sin?
- How could you have responded in obedience instead?
- What are some things you can do to help you stand firm and respond more obediently the next time?

PRAYER

Thank God that He uses what Satan means for evil to bring good. Thank Him that He has all authority over Satan and that He doesn't allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear. Ask God to help you desire truth and obedience more than you desire your temptation. Ask Him to help you see the way out the next time you feel tempted.