

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide – Know Your Enemy #2

He Is Satan / November 8, 2020 / Pastor Paul Taylor



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Questions | Share your full name (first, middle, and last) with your group. Do you know how your parents choose this name? If so, share that story. Did you have any nicknames growing up or do you have one currently? Finally, if you have children, share their names and how you choose them.
2. Read John 16:33, Luke 10:19, and Matthew 7:24-27. Jesus' words are a reminder that we live in a broken world and have an enemy who hates us. But despite that, Jesus teaches that belief and obedience to the words of God give us an unshakeable foundation for our lives. Have you experienced a time where God's words brought you through a difficult circumstance? If you're willing, share that story with your group.

John 16:33 (NLT) – "I [Jesus] have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

Luke 10:19 (ESV) – "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you."

Matthew 7:24-27 (NASB) – ²⁴"Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and its collapse was great."

DIVING DEEPER

3. Read 1 Peter 5:8-9 and Ephesians 6:10-12. Pastor Paul shared that the name Satan means adversary. Based on the scriptures read, why is passivity a recipe for failure when contending against Satan?

1 Peter 5:8-9 (ESV) – ⁸Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Ephesians 6:10-12 (NLT) – ¹⁰A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹²For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

4. Read Ephesians 2:1-5 and 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 and discuss the corresponding questions.

Ephesians 2:1-5 (NLT) – ¹Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ²You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. ⁴But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

2 Corinthians 4:2-6 (NLT) – ²We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this. ³If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. ⁴Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. ⁵You see, we don't go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.

- a) How do these passages describe those who don't believe in Jesus Christ?
 - b) Do you have a motivation and sense of urgency to share Jesus with your "8 to 15," the people God has strategically placed in your life, that lines up with these texts? If not, what's holding you back?
5. Though an adversary, Satan is still subject to the authority of God. This means that even when we face an attack from Satan, God is still in control. One such example of this is a critical moment in the life of Peter. Review that moment and discuss the corresponding questions.

Luke 22:24-34 (NIV) – ²⁴A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. ²⁵Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. ²⁶But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. ²⁸You are those who have stood by me in my trials. ²⁹And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, ³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ³¹"Simon [i.e. Peter], Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. ³²But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." ³³But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." ³⁴Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

- a) What stands out to you from Jesus' words to Peter in verses 31-32?
- b) Pastor John Piper said that "God intends part of our preparation for heaven to be a life of warfare with hell." In the midst of a trial that you can't understand, is it enough for you to know that Jesus is praying that your faith would not fail? Explain your answer.
- c) How do you think Peter's leadership of the early church (see for example Acts 2:14-41) was affected by this sifting he experienced at the hands of Satan?

TAKING IT HOME

6. Pastor Paul warned that while Satan can't take away a person's salvation, he can take away the joy of their salvation. Take a moment and think like famous Christian apologist C.S. Lewis did when he wrote [*The Screwtape Letters*](#). If Satan was planning an attack on you, how would he do it? In other words, where might you be vulnerable? How can you be actively preparing against an attack of this type?
7. We protect ourselves and our families against Satan by being totally committed to the Word of God and to faith in the grace of Jesus Christ. This means proactive and consistent engagement with the spiritual

disciplines of Bible reading and prayer. How are you doing with these two disciplines? Are you keeping your weapons against the enemy sharpened or are they becoming dull?

How can you continue to grow in knowing the Word of God and connecting with God through prayer?

Ephesians 6:17-18 (NLT) – ¹⁷Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

Romans 10:17 (ESV) – So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS

-
-
-

RIVERS CROSSING – THINGS TO KNOW

1. 2021 Discipleship School | Discipleship School is a one-year program that helps Christians from all backgrounds become fully engaged followers of Christ. The school helps students learn to hear God's voice clearly, experience a full and free life, develop intimacy with God, develop Christlike living, and understand their spiritual gifting. For more information, or to register for Discipleship School, click on the link below. <https://riverscrossing.com/discipleship-school/>
2. Volunteering at Rivers Crossing | Everything we do as a church is made possible because of our incredible volunteer teams. Whether they're leading a group in River Kids, welcoming first time guests or helping produce our online services, each person makes a huge impact. If you'd like to find a place to serve, click the following link <https://riverscrossing.com/get-involved/>

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE

1. Rivers Crossing 30-Day Bible Reading Plan / <https://riverscrossing.com/2199-2/>
2. Rivers Crossing Journal – Available for purchase at the church merchandise store / [Twitter Feed](#)
3. Mobile Bible Apps [click to access]: [YouVersion](#), [Read Scripture](#), and [Bible.is](#)
4. Bible Study Websites [click to access]: [Bible Gateway](#), [Blue Letter Bible](#), and [Bible Hub](#)
5. The Bible Project – A collection of beautifully-illustrated Bible videos / <https://bibleproject.com>
6. RightNow Media – Normally subscription-based, but they are currently offering access to a limited portion of their media library in light of the COVID-19 outbreak / <https://www.rightnowmedia.org>
7. Logos article on basic Bible study techniques / <https://blog.logos.com/2017/03/5-basic-bible-study-techniques-shouldnt-ignore/>