



## Small Group Study Guide

### SERMON: THE ESCALATION OF EVIL

September 21, 2025 | CrossPointe Church

Tracy "PT" Pounders, Pastor

#### Introduction

Increasing displays of evil in the world tell us Satan knows his time is short. Jesus has power over the devil and his demons, and he has called us to live and walk in the same power.

#### Key Scriptures

- Luke 8:1–3 (Mary Magdalene and the women who served Jesus)
- Luke 8:26–39 (the Gerasene/Legion account)
- Revelation 12:9–12 (Satan cast down; wrath because time is short)
- Matthew 24:3–14 / Luke 21:7–28 (signs of the end: lawlessness, deception, persecution)
- 2 Corinthians 2:11 (don't be ignorant of the devil's schemes)
- John 14:12 (believers will do the works of Jesus)
- Luke 4:18 (Jesus proclaims liberty to captives)
- John 10:10 (Satan comes to steal, kill, destroy)

#### Sermon Quotes from PT

- *"The escalation of evil...is not a mystery; it is a spiritual reality—the increased activity of the devil and demons because they know their time is short."*
- *"Mary Magdalene and the man from Gadara went from darkness to dawn, from despair to purpose, from demons to deliverance."*
- *"If we are ignorant of how our enemy works, he will outwit and defeat us."*
- *"The biblical response is clear: remain alert, strap on every piece of spiritual armor, proclaim the Gospel, pray for deliverance and healing, care for those who suffer, and live in steadfast hope."*

#### Discussion Questions

1. What stands out to you from Luke 8:26-29 about the man's condition before Jesus and his response after deliverance? How does this shape our understanding of Jesus' power and mission?
2. Luke 8:1-3 shows women following Jesus who were delivered from demons and illnesses, and then supported His ministry. How does their response model Christian discipleship and stewardship today?

3. PT's sermon connected present-day atrocities to a broader spiritual conflict (Revelation 12:9–12). How does acknowledging spiritual warfare change the way we prepare, pray, act and response to evil?
4. 2 Corinthians 2:11 warns against ignorance of the enemy's schemes. What practical steps can our group take to become informed but not fearful—spiritually equipped rather than paralyzed? (practical application)
5. PT said, *"Jesus often finds us exhausted and afraid, yet he shows up in those dark seasons of our lives."* Can you share a time you were overwhelmed, exhausted or anxious, and Jesus showed up to speak peace in your storm?
6. John 14:12 and Luke 4:18 point to empowered ministry and liberty for captives. How can we as a small group participate in proclaiming freedom (prayer, testimony, service) to those bound by darkness in our community? (mission/action)
7. PT said, ***"The Devil is real, but we are responsible."*** He emphasized responsibility alongside the reality of Satan (we can accept lies, deceptions, temptations). What patterns of belief or behavior in your life need to be handed over to Christ? How can this group support accountability and spiritual growth?
8. How should the church balance grieving over real evil in the world with living in hope and proclaiming the Gospel? What specific, gospel-centered responses can CrossPointe take this month to bring faith and hope to our community, our neighbors, friends and family?

**Please Include the Following Things In Your Prayers This Week:**

- Thanksgiving for Christ's victory over darkness.
- Repentance where we've believed lies or given ground to the enemy.
- Courage to proclaim the Gospel and practical compassion for those who suffer.
- Strength and rest for CrossPointe leaders and volunteers in seasons of exhaustion.

**Or Ask Someone to Pray this Prayer Out Loud:**

- *"Lord, we ask that every person who attends CrossPointe would find a Small Group Community — a place to be known, encouraged, served, and sent. We also ask for you to help each person who attends our church to find a mentor or friend who will walk with them in faith. Bless our group and we grow together in our faith. Amen."*

**PLEASE TAKE A GROUP PICTURE AND TAG PT  
(Franklin Tracy Pounders) ON FACEBOOK !!!**