

# Deliver Us #2: Understanding the Enemy

October 8, 2023

Genesis 3:1-7

John 10:10

2 Corinthians 2:10-11

D E L I V E R U S  
*Life in the victory of Jesus*

## Begin with Prayer

In silence, invite the Holy Spirit to guide you. Then pray: *Empowering God, we pray that you will send your Holy Spirit to move us to understanding; to help us to believe the gospel; to give us strength and wisdom to live by it. Amen.* (Worship Sourcebook Q.3.5.8)

## Reconnecting and Debriefing

Take a moment to check in with one another (2 minutes each).

1. *What's something you've been particularly thankful for these days?*
2. *How has your understanding of angels and demons changed, or not changed, over the years?*

### Introduction

Whether we gather in person or online, our goal remains the same: to be a people apprenticed to the life of Jesus. His life and teaching is our example and our source of truth. Remember the commitments we make to each other to foster safety and freedom as we pursue spiritual growth together:

- Whenever possible, please listen to the sermon prior to gathering (Sunday or online).
- While we are meeting (even online), commit to focussing rather than multitasking. Be all here.
- Give every person an equal opportunity to share, even if it takes time to form or finish their thoughts.
- Be respectful and non-judgmental.
- Honour sharing boundaries (only what you have permission to share, no gossip) and guard confidentiality (what we share here stays here).
- Don't try to fix, problem-solve or rescue; keep pointing one another to the truths of the gospel for our lives.

## Listening to God's Word

Many people would consider a discussion of the devil and his demons to be utter nonsense, while others would see them lurking around every corner, ready to pounce with pitchfork in hand. While it might seem strange to consider invisible beings at work in our world today, Jesus interacted with them regularly. Throughout His ministry, Jesus encountered and overpowered evil spiritual forces on numerous occasions and taught his disciples how to do the same. Our discussion today will help unpack how we live in the victory of Jesus, particularly as we understand what and who we are victorious over.

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## Small Group Discussion

- *Do you believe most people focus too much or too little on the devil and his demons? What impact would it make either way?*
- **Read Genesis 3:1-7. What is your first thought when you read through this passage?**
- Genesis 3 illustrates three of the devil's key tactics: temptation, deception, and accusation. Through these, he shows you something you desire that you should not have, he lies to you and deceives you into trying to get it, and then accuses you and condemns you when your life falls apart. *Where do you see these three tactics appear in Genesis 3?*
- *Where have you observed temptation, deception, or accusation as you go about your week?*
- *Where have you personally experienced temptation, deception, or accusation in your own life?*

- **Read John 10:10 and 1 John 3:8.** The fruit of temptation, deception, and accusation is death, but Jesus came to do away with all three! *Where have you experienced Jesus ‘destroying the work of the devil’ and bringing ‘life to the full?’ Where might Jesus want to bring you into ‘fuller life,’ and what would it look like?*
- **Read Romans 8:33-35.** The word ‘satan’ means accuser, somewhat like a prosecuting lawyer in a court case who tries to prove the guilt of the accused. In Romans, we see God justifying us through Jesus, and Jesus himself advocating on our behalf. *How does ‘accuser’ describe Satan’s relationship to God? To us? If God is ‘justifying’ us and Jesus is ‘interceding’ for us, what power does Satan have?*
- ***How do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to respond to or act on what we have read and discussed?***

## Practices – Identifying Schemes

Paul says that we are ‘not unaware of [the devil’s] schemes’ (2 Corinthians 2:10-11). Three of those schemes are temptation, deception, and accusation. Today we will take time to listen to the Holy Spirit around those three themes.

You can stay as a group, divide in half, or sit with partners. Intentionally invite the Holy Spirit into this moment and posture yourself to listen. Have someone read each of the questions slowly, giving a few moments between each question, and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Is there something He wants to bring to mind or something He wants to address?

*Is there something that I want, even though it is not good for me?*

Perhaps a desire for revenge fueled by bitterness, a desire for money for money’s sake, a desire to control others, or choices spurred by lust. *What need do I feel like this temptation will meet?*

*Is there a lie that I believe about myself, my life, or those around me? What impact is it making? What truth does Jesus want to speak to counter it?*

*Is there something I have done that causes me to feel ashamed, worthless, or hopeless when I remember it? How does Jesus’ forgiveness change that feeling?*

After your time of listening, share with someone what you heard the Holy Spirit say.

## Caring for One Another

- *Based on your time of listening, pray for each other in response to what you heard.*
- ***Do you or your family have a need that the Life Group can help meet?***

Using **the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13)** as a guide, based on what you’ve shared together, spend time listening to God and praying for one another.