



— Satan: The Biggest Loser —

John 8, Hebrews 2, James 4
Small Group Plan

Some of you will remember the cartoon character “Hot Stuff” — a little devil wearing diapers. He was short, bright red, had little horns, and carried a little pitchfork. He was easy to recognize and even cute. He was a little devil who always had a few pranks to play on people. But he wasn’t dangerous. Mischievous, but not dangerous. And sadly, Hot Stuff, or a slightly larger version of him, is the caricature many have of the real enemy.

But how does scripture describe our enemy?

- The accuser (Revelation 12:10)
- Your enemy (1 Peter 5:8)
- The destroyer (Revelation 9:11)
- The enemy (Matthew 13:39)
- Evil spirit (1 Samuel 16:14)
- The father of lies (John 8:44)
- Great red dragon (Revelation 12:3)
- A murderer (John 8:44)
- That ancient serpent (Revelation 12:9; 20:2)
- The prince of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11)
- The prince of demons (Matthew 12:24)
- The ruler of the kingdom of the air (Ephesians 2:2)
- The serpent (Genesis 3:4, 14; 2 Corinthians 11:3)
- The tempter (Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5)
- The god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- The evil one (Matthew 13:19, 38)

No, he is not mischievous. He is not easy to recognize. And he is certainly not cute..

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- What was your picture of Satan growing up?
- How and why has it changed?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— SATAN'S PLAN – TO RUIN —

John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

- What are the lies that Satan tells you and those you love?
- Why doesn't Jesus simply say that Satan is a "liar" — why does he bump it up by saying he is "the father of lies" and that lying is "his native language"?
- How does it feel to know that Satan's plan is to murder every person — you, your children, your grandchildren, your friends, everyone you love?
- Since Satan is portrayed as a "lion" what does it mean for us to be "alert"? What does a "sober mind" look like?

— JESUS' PLAN – TO RESTORE —

Hebrews 2:14-15

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Revelation 1:17-18

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

- Why did Jesus have to share in our humanity to **destroy Satan**?
- Why did Jesus have to share in our humanity to **restore us**?
- What does it mean for Jesus to hold the keys to death and Hades?

— OUR PLAN – TO RESPOND —

James 4:7-8

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you.

Ephesians 6:11-16

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the

gospel of peace. ¹⁶ *In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

- Why does Satan “flee” when we resist him?
- Why does God’s plan to restore us depend upon our willingness to “come near” to Him?
- How does the “armor of God” protect us from “the devil’s schemes”?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Which part of God’s armor has been the most powerful for you?
- Which part of God’s armor do you need the most right now? Explain.
- Of all the Epic Failures described in scripture, why is Satan’s the biggest of all?
- Close by praising God for supplying us with spiritual armor to wear. Thank Him for his constant presence. And tell Him how you plan to “come near” to Him this week.