

HOPE FOR EXILES

Week Three | The Devil | 11.20-21.2021

Grow Deep Conversation Questions: Use these questions to help you process the message in your personal time of study or with your group. Time suggestions are based on a 90-minute group gathering.

Message Recap: We can't believe what the Bible says about us and what the world says about us at the same time. There is a tension between our dueling realities; we are made in God's image with infinite dignity, value, and worth and broken, unable to save ourselves, that's a job only God can take on. Together we will look at how we stay on guard from its influence without forgetting God's power in our lives?

» Opening

(3 minutes)

- Introductions - This is especially important if this is your first meeting and if there are new members.
- Housekeeping - Clarify expectations:
 - Remind your group that this is a confidential meeting.
 - **Remember, there may be many thoughts and views. Please remain kind and respectful during conversations.**
- Pray - Open your time together in prayer.

» Introduction

(12 minutes)

- Ice-Breaker: What was one of your favorite games to play when you were growing up?
- Digging Deeper: What did you grow up assuming or believing about the devil?

» Observation | Read 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; John 10:7-11; 1 John 3:7-10; Ephesians 6:10-13

(12 minutes)

- What are your initial reactions to these passages? What do you find challenging? Are you encouraged by any of these verses? Why?

» Key Principle | This means war.

(12 minutes)

- Knowing that faith is a spiritual war, what do you need to do to be prepared to fight evil?

» "The Devil Isn't Real" | Reread 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; John 10:7-11

(12 minutes)

- Which of these truths is most difficult for you to believe? Why do you think that is? Truth 1: The devil exists and he and is creating a specific battle plan against you; Truth 2: He has an army and he has weapons; Truth 3: He came to steal, kill, and destroy.

» "The Devil Made Me Do It" | Reread 1 John 3:7-10

(12 minutes)

- Where are some places it feels easy to blame the devil? What might some dangers be when we shift blame?
- How can we encourage one another to be accountable and allow God's truth to lead us?

» "I Just Need to Be Good Enough" | Reread Ephesians 6:10-13

(12 minutes)

- How can a community of others who have similar beliefs build your resistance against the devil and evil?
- Which part of the "Armor of God" that Paul writes about is most difficult for you to remember to pick up each day? How does that leave you vulnerable to attack?

» Next Steps and Prayer |

(15 minutes)

- What area of your life right now is being led by lies? How can you fight back this week with the truth that only Jesus offers?
- Close by praying for each other to identify the lies they have been believing and ways your group can shed light on the truth of Jesus.