

**Standing Strong in a Time of War – August 18 & 19, 2018**  
**Follow-up Bible Studies**

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**Day One: Genesis 3**

- Describe the serpent (1). What did he say to Eve (1)? Satan wages war by tempting us to second-guess God. When you find yourself doubting God's word and promises to you, what are some ways to counterattack this particular assault from the Enemy?
- Summarize the rest of Satan's conversation with Eve (2-5). What did Eve ultimately do in response to the Enemy's scheme (6)? What were some immediate consequences (7-8)?
- Describe Adam and Eve's encounter with God (9-13). This begins the human sin pattern of blame-shifting and shirking intimacy. In your own life, how have you taken back ground in these areas?
- What long-term consequences (curses) did the serpent, woman and man suffer (14-19). Which aspects of the curse point to the reality of living in a time of war? Describe Adam and Eve's exile from Eden (21-24). In what ways do we still live in exile today?

**Day Two: Job 1**

- Describe Job (1-3). What is one way he cared for his children (4-5)? Do you know anyone like Job – blameless and upright in all areas of life? How does it feel to know that even people like Job can be casualties in Satan's war on us?
- How did Satan come to encounter God (6)? Summarize their conversation (7-12). Re-read verse 7. Consider the path of destruction Satan surely creates by constantly going back and forth on Earth. Pray that you would be able to stand firm, no matter when or where the Enemy strikes. Re-read verse 12. What do you think about how God *allows* Satan to attack Job?
- Summarize all the ways Satan attacked Job (13-19). How did Job respond (20-22)? In verse 20, notice that he "got up." Despite severe wounding, Job *stood* before God. You can do this too, but not on your own strength. Bring to mind the biggest battle you're facing and ask the Lord to fill you with *his* power.

**Day Three: Matthew 4:1-11**

- Set the scene of this text (1). Who are the three players (1)? How did Jesus feel after 40 days of fasting (2)? What was the first thing Satan said to him (3)? Summarize Jesus' response (4). What do you think made it possible for him to resist the Enemy?
- Describe the next encounter (5-7). Imagine this scene in your mind's eye. It's the second time Satan begins by saying, "If you are the Son of God..." Why do you think he does this? What do you think of him quoting scripture to Jesus? We mustn't put a single warfare tactic past Satan. Put on the *full* armor of God!
- Where did Satan next take Jesus (8)? What did he offer (9)? What was different about Jesus' response this time (10)? What happened next (11)? How do you think Jesus felt at this point? When you've had enough of the Devil's schemes, how do you respond? How do you feel? Invite the Lord into this reflection.

**Day Four: 1 Peter 5:1-11**

- Whom is Peter appealing to in this part of his letter (1)? What should the elders' care for God's people look like (2-3)? Treating others well is not only moral, but it's also a way to do battle with Satan. Why? What awaits those who look after "God's flock" in this way? In what ways do you see yourself as a shepherd?

- What guidance does Peter give to the young (5)? Why should *all* people be humble (5)? What is the result of humbling ourselves “under God’s mighty hand” (6)? Why should we cast our anxieties on the Lord (7)? What must Satan think of humility? And turning to God when we are troubled? Such characteristics and behaviors are ways to wage war against the Enemy. Make use of them!
- Why must we be alert and of sober mind (8)? Compare Peter’s remarks about Satan to Job 1:7. What does it look like to resist the Enemy (9)? How does the story end (10-11)? In this time of war, pray this strength to stand would invade your life now.

### **Day Five: Revelation 12**

- Describe the woman in John’s vision (1-2). And the dragon (3-4)? Describe the clash between the two (4). How was the child (a symbol of Jesus) rescued (5)? What then happened to the woman (a symbol of the church) (6)? The spiritual battle begun in Genesis 3 culminates here in Revelation, a book full of mystery. How can such mystery and symbolism help you in your everyday life?
- Describe the war in heaven (7-9). After the dragon was hurled to Earth, what did “a loud voice in heaven” say (10-12)? Why do you think Satan is sometimes called “the accuser”? Which parts of verses 10-12 seem war-like or descriptive of war’s aftermath?
- What did the dragon do next (13)? Describe the woman’s escape plan, and the dragon’s attempt to thwart it (14-15). What did all of creation do (16)? What was the dragon’s response (17)? What rage-filled attacks is Satan leveling against the church today? Pray we may all stand in the strength of the Spirit and fight back!