

How To Defeat The Defeated...

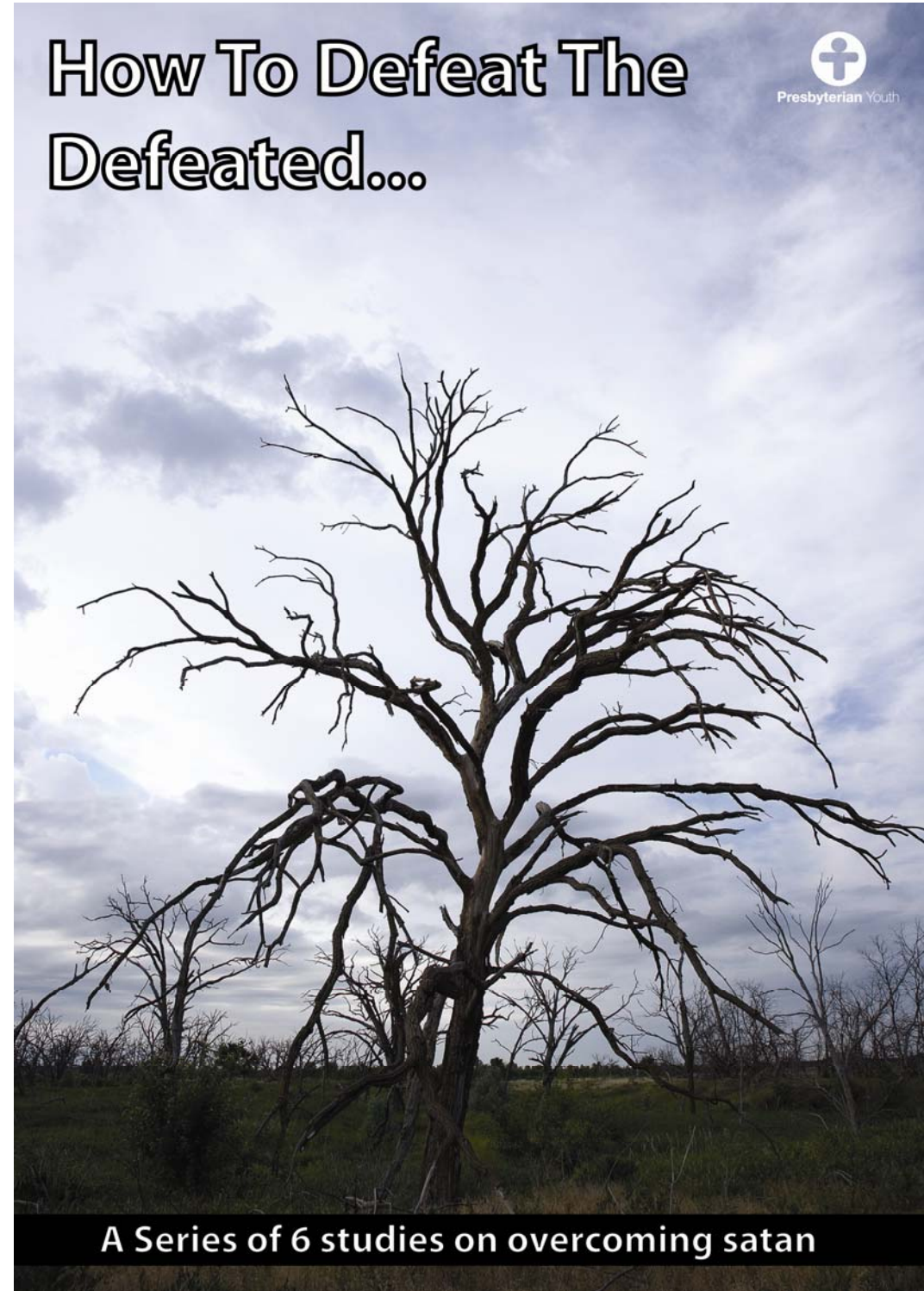


For more bible studies and other Christian resources visit the Ministry Centre website at www.ministrycentre.org.au

ministry  centre
resources for your church



Presbyterian Youth



A Series of 6 studies on overcoming satan



Contents

Study One 5

Study Two 7

Study Three 9

Study Four 13

Study Five 17

Study Six 19

Part D: Who?

10. In the context of the spiritual battle why is it essential to pray for the spread of the gospel?
 (See **Ephesians 6:18-20**).

Conclusion

11. Share with your group the one or two key discoveries you have made this week about overcoming the evil one. How will these discoveries change the way you live?

6. Discuss with your group the things you have found that have helped your prayer life.

Part C: How?

7. According to **Ephesians 6:18**, what two things should be involved in prayer?

8. Why is it dangerous if our minds and the Spirit are not both active in prayer?

9. Read this quote from *The Screwtape Letters*:

Whenever they are attending to God himself we are defeated, but there are ways of preventing them from doing so. The simplest is to turn their gaze away from God towards themselves. Keep them watching their own minds and trying to produce feelings there by the action of their will. When they meant to ask God for charity, let them instead, start trying to manufacture charitable feelings for themselves and not notice that this is what they are doing. When they meant to pray for courage let them really be trying to feel brave. When they say they are praying for forgiveness let them be trying to feel forgiven. Teach them to estimate the value of each prayer by their success in producing the desired feeling, and never let them suspect how much success or failure of that kind depends on whether they are well or ill, fresh or tired, at that moment.

Why must we get our eyes off ourselves if we are ever going to learn to pray?

Study One

Intro

1. Before you came on this camp who did you think the devil was? Did you believe he was real or just a myth?

2. Read together **Genesis 3:1-13**. How does the serpent act in this story? Is this the way the devil works today?

3. **Read Job 1:6-12**. What was Satan trying to do to Job?

What can this show us about the way Satan works today?

Part A: We should be wary of the devil

4. The devil is a liar (**read John 8:44**).

What sorts of lies does the devil peddle today?

What are some of the special lies the devil reserves for our generation?

5. The devil is highly intelligent, crafty and a schemer. (Look up **2 Corinthians 2:10,11**).

Why are we often deceived by his schemes?

6. Satan wants control of our lives (see **Revelation 2:13**).

What are some of the ways that Satan exercises his control over us and our friends?

Part B: We need not fear

7. " Satan has been in the business of intimidating, silencing and oppressing the people of God for a long, long time" (AW Tozer). Why should we not fear the devil?

8. Satan is a fallen angel not a god (see **Rev 12:7-9**). How should this knowledge affect the way we think about and react to Satan?

9. Who or what can separate us from God's love? (See **Rom 8:38, 39**).

How should this affect the way we live?

10. What will be the attitudes and behaviour of Christians who underrate the devil's importance?

11. What will be the attitudes and behaviour of Christians who overrate the devil's importance?

Study Six

Intro

1. Read **Ephesians 6:18- 20**. Why, in the context of a battle against the evil one, is it essential to consider prayer?

Part A: What?

2. " Words fail to explain how necessary prayer is, and in how many ways the exercise of prayer is profitable" - John Calvin. Why is prayer so underrated by most Christians?

3. "Lord your best servants are those who wish to shape their lives on Your answers - rather than shape Your answers on their wishes" - Augustine (famous Christian teacher of 4th Century). Why must Christian prayer be much more than just asking for what we want?

4. How does the evil one discourage us when it comes to prayer?

Part B: When?

5. When, according to **Ephesians 6:18**, should we pray?

5. Why is it so important to have the assurance that comes through having a relationship with God? (See **1 Peter 5:8**)

Part B: Take the sword of the Spirit - the word of God

6. Every piece of the soldier's battle dress so far has been defensive. How is the word of God now described? (See **Ephesians 6:17**)

7. Read **Matthew 4: 1-11**. What are the temptations that Satan brings to Jesus?

8. How are these temptations similar to the ones facing us today?

9. How does Jesus respond to the temptations?

10. What does this teach us about how we should overcome temptation?

Study Two

Intro

1. Even though the devil is defeated, why is he dangerous and powerful? (See **Revelation 12:12**).

Part A: Darkness in the heavenly realms

2. Why is the Christian life often a struggle? (See **Ephesians 5:12**)

3. One of Satan's main aims is to disrupt our relationship with God. How can bad things happening in our lives be used by Satan to unsettle our faith? (See **Revelation 2:9,10**).

4. Why is it so important for our faith to trust God in good times and in hard times? (See **Job 1:9-11**).

Part B: Darkness in the earthly corridors of power

5. Read **Ephesians 6:12** again. How does Satan sometimes use the human centres of power (like governments, nations, corporations, unions, media, militaries, police, street gangs etc.) for his own purposes?

6. If we are too negative about society and its structures, what are we in danger of doing as Christians? (See **Matthew 5 :13-16**).

7. However, if we fail to see the evil one's involvement in the world, what is the opposite danger? (See **1 John 2:15**).

Part C: Victory over the darkness

8. Why is the cross of Christ the ultimate answer to the fight against the powers and principalities? (See **Colossians 2:13-15**).

9. What has Jesus won for us that we could never achieve alone?

10. Why can we be confident that the devil is ultimately defeated?

Study Five

Intro

1. Think about your favourite sport -why are attack and defence so important to success in sport?

2. In terms of combating the evil one, why are attack and defence likely to be so important?

Part A: Take the helmet of salvation

2. Read **Ephesians 6:17**. How can we describe our salvation as a helmet?

3. "That which adorns and protects the Christian, which enables him to hold up his head with confidence and joy, is the fact that he is saved" - Hodge. What does it mean to be saved and why is it so important?

4. How can we be sure that we have the helmet of salvation? (See **John 3:16**).

Study Three

Intro

1. Read the following quote from

Michael Green in *I Believe in Satan's Downfall*:

"The church at large seems to have lost the recognition that there is a war on. Church is a place you go on Sunday once a week, or once a month, not a corps of battle troops under a Commander, against a skilful, powerful, ruthless foe."

How will church and youth group be different if we know we are in a battle?

Part A: Truth Matters

2. Read **Ephesians 6:14**. What does it mean to have the belt of truth buckled around your waist?

3. Why are many people unconvinced that the message of Jesus is truth? (See **2 Corinthians 4:4**).

4. By contrast, what does God promise for all who genuinely seek his truth? (See **Psalms 14:2**).

5. Why will a lifetime of regular Bible reading make such a difference in a believer's life?

Maybe some in the group could share how they go about reading the bible on a regular basis. (See **Psalm 119:105**).

6. How does your youth group program reflect an understanding that truth matters?

(See **Acts 17:11**).

Part B: Righteousness Matters

7. What does it mean to have a breastplate of righteousness? (See **Ephesians 6:14**)

8. Why is it that Christians still find sin so attractive?

9. Why is being someone who always follows the letter of the law such an unattractive way to live?

How will knowing that we are loved and treasured by God make a difference? (See **Psalm 8:3-8**)

10. Read the following quote from C.S. Lewis in *The Screwtape Letters*:

"Our cause is never more in danger than when a human, no longer desiring but still intending to do God's will looks around upon a universe from which every trace of Him seems to have vanished and asks why has he been forsaken, and still obeys."

Why is trusting God the best defence against the evil one?

11. Why will a fixed focus on Jesus always help us to overcome despair? (See **Hebrews 12:1, 2**).

5. Why is it harder, but better, to be people who live by faith not by sight? (See **2 Corinthians 5:7**)

6. Why are all forms of the occult so dangerous? (See **Deuteronomy 18:9-12**)

7. In spite of our need of caution when it comes to the occult, why should we not be fearful? (See **Colossians 2:13-15**)

Part B: Despair

8. Despair and depression are very real things that many young people face. What is the Bible's secret to learning not to despair? (See **Philippians 4:12,13**).

9. What are the sorts of things that young people despair about themselves?

Part C: Proclamation Matters

10. Why is the evil one so threatened by the believer who lives out and proclaims his or her faith? (See **Eph 6:15**).

11. How does knowing the truth and living a God-honouring life relate to sharing your faith?

12. Where will God give us opportunities to proclaim?

Study Four

Intro

1. Why does a Christian need a shield of faith? (**Ephesians 6:16**).
2. What is the devil's purpose in sending evil darts?

Part A: Demonic

1. How is magic different from faith?
2. Though magic will always be appealing, why will faith provide the real answers to life's problems?
3. How is that, although seemingly harmless, magic can actually ensnare and enslave us? (See **Ezekiel 13:18-20**)
4. What is the difference between fortune telling and faith? (See **Hebrews 11:8**)