

Introduction:

1. It is wonderful to have all of you young people who are on your way to camp. We hope you have a great week and learn a lot about God and His will for your life.
2. Imagine this scenario with me: When you arrive at camp this afternoon, the first thing you hear is a warning. “There is a lion loose in the woods here at the camp; this lion ate three campers last week.” What would camp be like for you this week? You would stay in your cabin with the door shut tight. If you had to go out, you would watch in every direction. You would try to be safe.
3. While this particular scenario is imagined, the truth is there will be a lion at camp this week.
 - a. He’s not just at camp. He’s in your neighborhood, at your school, even in your house. You have to face him every day. Satan is that lion, 1 Peter 5:8. Like a lion, Satan is on the prowl seeking to devour you. You must not let him devour you!
 - b. In order to defeat the devil, there are some things you need to know about him.

The Lesson:**I. The devil is real.**

- A. Through books and movies, you are familiar with a lot of make-believe characters—Hobbits, Harry Potter, Superman, Batman—the list is long. You know they are not real.
 1. Some people will try to tell you the same thing about the devil—that “he is not real, that he is a mythical character or a way of describing evil; intelligent people don’t believe in him.”
 2. What a lie! Satan will be perfectly happy with you believing that he’s not real. It will certainly give him an advantage over you if you don’t believe he exists.
- B. Satan is real. You can take the word of Jesus on this point, Matthew 4:1-11.
 1. Jesus believed Satan was real; He went to war with him; He talked with him; He overcame the temptation Satan put before Him. If Satan isn’t real, who is Jesus talking to?
 2. If you believe in Jesus, then you must also believe Satan is real. If you reject the idea that Satan is real, then you must also reject Jesus. It all goes together. Satan is real.

II. The devil knows about you.

- A. The Bible is clear that the devil knows about people—even about you and me; he even knows specific details about our lives. Listen to these Bible examples of Satan’s knowledge.
 1. In Genesis 3:1-7, he knew Adam and Eve and the law God had given to them.
 2. In Job 2:1-11, he knew Job and how to attack him to try to make him give up on God.
 3. In John 13:2, he knew Judas’ weakness for money and was able to influence him to sin.
 4. In 1 Thessalonians 2:18, he knew about the apostle Paul and how to hinder his work.
- B. If the devil knew about all of these people, then certainly he knows all about you and me. He knows what your weaknesses are. He knows where you can be tempted. Be on guard!

III. The devil wants to destroy you.

- A. People often ask about God’s plan for their lives. But they need to remember that the devil also has a plan. It is to destroy, 1 Peter 5:8. He knows about you; you need to know about him!
- B. Listen to how the Bible describes your enemy. Jesus said he is a *murderer* and a *liar* (John 8:44); The Holy Spirit called him the *tempter* (Matthew 4:3), *wicked one* (Matthew 13:19), *enemy* (Matthew 13:39). The devil is evil and wants to destroy you.
- C. Do you see why you need to know about the devil? It’s clear that you have an enemy. It’s also clear that the devil is waging war against you every single day. Satan never sleeps. Satan never slows down. Satan never gives up in his attempts to destroy you.
- D. So, can he be defeated? Is it possible for you to have victory over your enemy? Indeed, it is!

IV. He can be defeated—you can have victory.

- A. You can have victory through Christ.
 1. The most important thing you need to know about the devil is that he can be defeated. God’s word declares this in James 4:8. You can be victorious because of what Jesus has done. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus has defeated the devil, Hebrews 2:14.

2. Jesus has freed us from the fear of death, the devil, and the bondage of sin. As a result of this you can know you can be victorious over the devil. But the question remains, how do you defeat the devil in your daily warfare? Remember, it is a daily battle!
- B. You must know God's word.
1. One way you can defeat the devil is by knowing God's word.
 2. Did you know that the devil is a student of God's word? See it in Genesis 3:1-7 and Matthew 4:5-6. How was he able to defeat Adam and Eve? He knew what God had told them, but he made a big change by adding one small word to what God said. While he defeated them, he couldn't defeat Jesus. Why not? Because Jesus knew God's word and recognized the devil's schemes.
 3. What does this mean for you? This means you need to study God's word. I know school is out for the summer and you can put down your school books and relax. But you can't put down your Bible. Why not? Because your adversary, the devil is not taking any time off—and neither can you! You can defeat the devil every day when you have an "it is written" stored up in your heart, Psalms 119:11. When tempted to sin, you have verses to meditate on and consider. Those words stored in your heart can safeguard you against the devil.
- C. You must trust God's word.
1. Not only must you study the Bible, but then you must trust what you read.
 2. Satan was able to defeat Adam and Eve not just because he changed God's word. He was victorious because they failed to trust in God's word. How many times does a child of God suffer because of a lack of trust in what God has said?
 - a. How many young people miss the blessings of God because they believe the lie of the devil and engage in sex prior to marriage. When they do that, they do not trust that God's way (abstinence) is the best way, 1 Thessalonians 4:3. Many young people do not trust God when it comes to abstinence. Will you?
 - b. How many young lives have been ruined because they failed to trust what the Bible teaches about the dangers of alcohol in passages like Proverbs 20:1? Many young people do not trust God when it comes to avoiding drinking. Will you?
 - c. How many kids have learned hard lessons in life because they decided not to listen to their parents? Will you trust Ephesians 6:1? Many young people do not trust God when it comes to listening to their parents. Will you?
 - d. How many lives are cut short because people fail to trust God's warning about evil companions corrupting good morals? Do you remember 1 Corinthians 15:33? Many young people do not trust what God says in this verse. Will you?
 - e. God desires that you trust His word, His wisdom, and His way. Why? Because God knows better than you do, Jeremiah 10:23; Isaiah 55:7-8. Many young people do not trust these words. Will you?
- D. You must obey God's word.
1. Nike says, "Just do it." After reading and trusting God's word, you need to *just do it!*
 2. Every day of your life you have opportunity to live God's word. Only when you obey God will the devil be defeated!
 - a. Every day you have the opportunity to tell someone about Jesus, Mark 16:15-16. When you do this, you are reaching into the devil's realm to snatch a soul from him.
 - b. When you wake up each day you have the opportunity to decide if you are going to fill your mind with junk or with good things from God's word, Philippians 4:8-9. The battle is for your mind. When you fill your mind with good things, Satan knows he is losing!
 - c. Every day of your life you have the opportunity to resist sin and keep your body pure and holy unto the Lord, 1 Thessalonians 4:3.
 3. You know what God wants you to do. Will you do it? Defeat the devil by being a doer of God's word, James 1:22.

Conclusion:

1. Do not be deceived. The devil wants to destroy you. Take the warning seriously.
2. Never forget we have been given the victory through our Savior Jesus Christ.