

### OPEN

A little girl was once disciplined by her mother for kicking her little brother in the shins and then pulling his hair. "Sally," said the mother, "why did you let the devil make you kick your brother and pull his hair?" "The devil made me kick him," she replied, "but pulling his hair was my idea!"

*The New York Times*, in reporting on a survey by the Barna Group, noted the diminishing belief in the devil among Americans. Two-thirds of Americans do not believe in the devil as a living entity. In a nationwide survey of over a thousand randomly selected people, pollsters asked whether they agreed that Satan is "not a living being, but just a symbol of evil." 68% agreed with this statement, 30% disagreed, and the remaining 8% had no opinion. (*New York Times*, May 10, 1997)

- **What about you? Do you think that Satan is a living being, or just a symbol of evil?**

I don't know if you've thought about this, but do you know that God claims every minute of your life, and Satan counter-claims every minute? C. S. Lewis (the author of *Mere Christianity* & *The Screwtape Letters*) made this observation: "There is no neutral ground in the universe. Every square inch, every split second is claimed by God, and counter-claimed by Satan." Now, look at your watch. What time is it where you are? See, this very minute is being claimed by God in your life, but you know what? It's being counter-claimed by Satan. Let's now explore why the reality of Satan is important to understand, let's learn about the "Shrewd Serpent."

### DISCUSS

#### #1) Satan is Subtle

Read Revelations 12:7-9 & Ephesians 6:12

- What are some key truths that these passages teach us? What were some key ideas you learned from the sermon about Satan's subtleness?
- As Christ-followers what can we do to address this issue in our lives and community?

#### #2) Satan the Seducer

- What does it mean that Satan is a seducer and deceiver? Why is this idea so important for us to keep in mind as believers?
- As Christ-followers how can we resist Satan's temptations and seductions?

#### #3) Satan Slants the Truth

Read Jeremiah 17:9

- What does this passage and the sermon teach us about Satan's desire to corrupt truth?
- As Christ-followers how can we confront this issue in our lives and community?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

#### "The Shrewd Serpent"

**November 1st—November 7th**

*"The serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made." (Genesis 3:1)*

