

### OPEN

- *When was the last time you wanted to use the excuse “The devil made me do it!”*
- C.S. Lewis writes that, “There are two equal and opposite errors in to which our race can fall about the devil: ❶ One is to disbelieve in his existence. ❷ The second is to believe and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in him.”
- *Why are these two errors so important to understand and not fall into? Are you familiar with any examples of where you see persons falling into these errors?*

### DISCUSS

#### 1) Satan’s first scheme is to distract us with the urgent, the trivial, and the temporal

John Piper writes this in his book, *Hunger for God*: “The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It’s not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven but the inward nibbling at the table of the world. It’s not the x-rated video but the primetime dribble of triviality that we drink in every night. For all the ill that Satan can do, his most deadly weapons are not the poison of evil but the simple pleasures of earth. They are your basic meat and potatoes and coffee and gardening and reading and recreating and traveling and investing and T.V. watching and internet surfing and shopping to exercise and collecting. . . . and all those things that can become deadly distractions in the hands of Satan.”

##### - Read Job 1:8-12

- *How has Satan distracted you most with the trivial and temporal?*
- *How can you relate to Job’s story and Satan’s desire to distract you from God’s will?*
- *How can we best prevent (fight off) Satan’s distractions?*

#### 2) Another scheme of Satan is to brutally attack us, and here’s how:

- A) Satan attacks through nature (Job 1:19)
- B) Satan attacks through physical diseases and sickness (Job 2:7)
- C) Satan attacks through wicked people (Ephesians 6:12)
- D) Satan attacks through false accusations

- *Discuss and reflect on each of the forms of attack above. Which one of these schemes are you dealing with now in your life?*
- *What did the passages and sermon teach us about how we can best address Satan’s attacks?*
- *How can your group better support and encourage one another when members are under attack?*

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

#### “Satan’s Brutal Schemes”

**November 8—November 13**

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

