

ANGELS AND DEMONS

MESSAGE NEXT STEPS

EVIL IS REAL

OCTOBER 31

Our world is intrigued and sometimes even embraces evil. Horror movies make a ton of money at the box office. Shows about the occult, the paranormal, and true crime are all big business. Why are we so drawn towards evil? And where does evil originate? Discover how evil can be found in the world's systems, in the human heart, and because of unseen spiritual forces.

Work through the following questions and scriptures on your own, and get together with your running partner, life group, or friends and family to talk through what you are learning.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you feel about there being a spiritual realm with angels and demons? What questions do you have?
2. What stood out to you from the message?
3. Read **John 17:13-18**.
 - a.) Make some observations about this passage (What does the text say):
 - who is talking?
 - what is the circumstance?
 - any repeated phrases?
 - what surprised you?
 - what stood out to you?
 - b.) Make some interpretations (What does the passage mean?)
 - what questions do you have?
 - what do you think is going on in this passage?
 - what do you learn about the nature and character of God as you read this?
 - What do you learn about yourself or the world around you?
 - c.) Now make some applications (what's my response)
 - how do you respond to what you are reading?
 - what is the central truth that you could put into practice from this?
 - who could you share this with for the sake of encouragement?
4. Read **Isaiah 14:12-14** and **John 8:44**. The Bible tells us about Lucifer, who was created as an angel with free will, who in his pride decided he wanted to be equal to or more powerful than God. Because of this he fell and is no longer an angel who serves God, but does his own bidding trying to deceive humans to seek their will and ways above God's. Are you aware of ways you are tempted to pursue your will and ways over God's? What is a way you've experienced deception (lies) that lead you away from a loving relationship with God and others in the past 6 months?

5. Read **1 Peter 5:5-6**. Who are people in your life who regularly speak truth to you about yourself? Do you listen to them? If you don't have anyone who lovingly points out truth to you, how could you take steps to build into people who could be that for you?

6. Read **John 8:12, 12:44-46**. What does it look like for you to let Jesus be the light in your life (thoughts and emotions), so you don't walk in darkness?

KEY SCRIPTURE

John 17:13-18 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by[a] the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.

Isaiah 14:12-14 How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."

John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

1 Peter 5:5-6 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

John 8:12, When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 12:44-46 Then Jesus cried out, "Whoever believes in me does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. The one who looks at me is seeing the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

DIGGING DEEPER

This week talk to God about the areas of your life you identified above where you have been deceived (believing lies). The way we overcome deception is to let the light in by engaging with God. Here are some ways to do that:

- a. Look up truths in scripture that combat those lies. Memorize a scripture that combats a place you've been deceived.
- b. Ask a spiritual running partner or friend to help you learn what is God's truth about what you are believing, thinking, or choosing to do.
- c. Identify places that are helping you stay stuck and consider what needs to change in order for you to move forward.