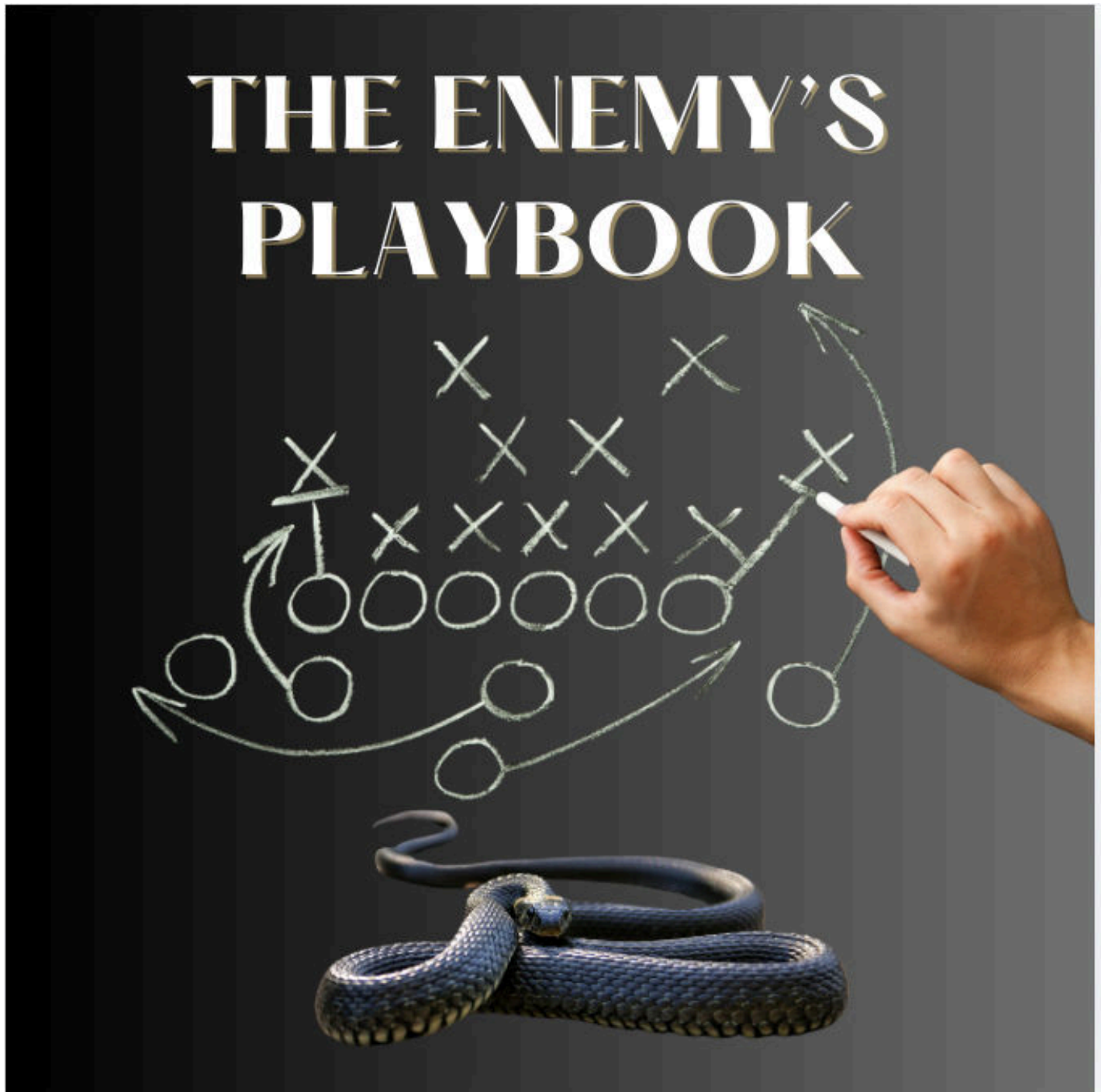


5-DAY DEVOTIONAL:



THE ENEMY'S PLAYBOOK

**COMBATTING THE LUST OF
THE FLESH**

Dear Parents,

We are thrilled to share with you this devotional packet, which mirrors the topics and lessons we're covering with our students. This resource is designed not only to help keep you informed but also to empower you to engage in meaningful conversations with your teen about their spiritual journey. We believe that faith is best nurtured when reinforced both in the community & at home. These devotions provide a fantastic opportunity to deepen your connection with your teen, discuss the teachings they're receiving, & explore how these lessons apply to everyday life. We encourage you to set aside time each week to go through these devotions together, ask questions, & share your insights. This shared time can spark powerful discussions & help build a strong foundation of faith in your family. Along with the daily devotion, at the end of this document are the discussion questions that were covered in small group time to help you break down topics on a deeper level.

*Thank you for partnering with us in guiding our youth toward a deeper relationship with
Dylan & Faith Curtis*

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL: DEFEATING THE LUST OF THE FLESH

DAY 1: THE ENEMY'S PLAYBOOK

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 10:10 (NIV)

"THE THIEF COMES ONLY TO STEAL AND KILL AND DESTROY; I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL."

DEVO:

THE BIBLE REMINDS US THAT SATAN IS NOT A MYTHOLOGICAL FIGURE IN RED TIGHTS, BUT A REAL ENEMY WHO SEEKS TO DESTROY US. ONE OF HIS FAVORITE TACTICS IS TO EXPLOIT OUR HUMAN WEAKNESSES, ESPECIALLY THROUGH THE "LUST OF THE FLESH."

THESE ARE DESIRES THAT OUR BODY CRAVES BUT ARE CONTRARY TO GOD'S WILL.

REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE TODAY. WHERE HAS THE ENEMY TRIED TO STEAL, KILL, OR

DESTROY YOUR JOY OR PEACE? REMEMBER THAT CHRIST CAME TO GIVE YOU

ABUNDANT LIFE. THE ENEMY'S PLAN MAY BE TO HURT YOU, BUT GOD'S PLAN IS

ALWAYS TO HEAL AND RESTORE.

PRAYER:

LORD, HELP ME TO RECOGNIZE THE TACTICS OF THE ENEMY AND LEAN INTO YOUR STRENGTH FOR PROTECTION AND GUIDANCE.

DAY 2: UNDERSTANDING THE TUG OF WAR

SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 5:16-17 (NIV)

“SO I SAY, WALK BY THE SPIRIT, AND YOU WILL NOT GRATIFY THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH. FOR THE FLESH DESIRES WHAT IS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT, AND THE SPIRIT WHAT IS CONTRARY TO THE FLESH.”

DEVO:

HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE TWO PARTS OF YOURSELF ARE CONSTANTLY AT WAR —ONE PART WANTS TO FOLLOW GOD, BUT THE OTHER WANTS TO CHASE SINFUL DESIRES? THIS TUG OF WAR IS A COMMON EXPERIENCE FOR BELIEVERS. WHILE OUR FLESH DESIRES WHAT IS CONTRARY TO GOD’S SPIRIT, WE ARE CALLED TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT.

TODAY, REFLECT ON WHERE YOU FEEL THIS INNER BATTLE. ASK GOD TO GIVE YOU THE STRENGTH TO CHOOSE HIS WAY OVER THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH.

PRAYER:

HOLY SPIRIT, HELP ME TO WALK IN YOU TODAY, RESISTING THE DESIRES OF MY FLESH. I SURRENDER MY WILL TO YOURS.

DAY 3: THE TRAP OF TEMPORARY SATISFACTION

SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 5:19-21 (NIV)

“THE ACTS OF THE FLESH ARE OBVIOUS: SEXUAL IMMORALITY, IMPURITY...AND THE LIKE. I WARN YOU...THOSE WHO LIVE LIKE THIS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”

DEVO:

THE ENEMY OFFERS TEMPORARY SATISFACTION THROUGH THE "LUST OF THE FLESH." BUT THESE ACTS—WHETHER ANGER, JEALOUSY, OR IMPURITY—BRING LONG-TERM PAIN. THEY LURE US IN, PROMISING FULFILLMENT, BUT ULTIMATELY LEAVE US EMPTY AND BROKEN.

IS THERE SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE TODAY THAT OFFERS TEMPORARY PLEASURE BUT IS PULLING YOU AWAY FROM GOD? CONSIDER HOW THESE HABITS MAY SEEM ENJOYABLE NOW, BUT LEAD TO LONG-TERM SPIRITUAL DAMAGE.

PRAYER:

GOD, HELP ME TO SEE BEYOND TEMPORARY PLEASURES. GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO RESIST WHAT THE FLESH CRAVES AND INSTEAD DESIRE WHAT LEADS TO ETERNAL JOY.

DAY 4: THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 5:22-23 (NIV)

“BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, FORBEARANCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS, AND SELF-CONTROL.”

DEVO:

WHILE THE LUST OF THE FLESH OFFERS TEMPORARY PLEASURES, THE SPIRIT OFFERS US LASTING GIFTS. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT—LOVE, JOY, PEACE, AND MORE—ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A LIFE ROOTED IN GOD. THESE ARE THE THINGS THAT GIVE TRUE SATISFACTION AND LASTING FULFILLMENT.

WHICH FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT DO YOU NEED MOST IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW? PRAY FOR GOD TO PRODUCE THESE IN YOU, KNOWING THAT THEY WILL LEAD TO THE ABUNDANT LIFE CHRIST PROMISED.

PRAYER:

FATHER, I WANT TO BEAR THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IN MY LIFE. GROW IN ME LOVE, JOY, AND PEACE THAT REFLECT YOUR CHARACTER AND BRING GLORY TO YOUR NAME.

DAY 5: CRUCIFYING THE FLESH

SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 5:24-25 (NIV)

“THOSE WHO BELONG TO CHRIST JESUS HAVE CRUCIFIED THE FLESH WITH ITS PASSIONS AND DESIRES. SINCE WE LIVE BY THE SPIRIT, LET US KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT.”

DEVO:

WHEN YOU PLACE YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST, THE OLD YOU IS CRUCIFIED. THE LUST OF THE FLESH NO LONGER HAS THE POWER IT ONCE HAD OVER YOU. BUT THIS DOESN'T MEAN TEMPTATION WILL NEVER COME; IT MEANS YOU HAVE THE SPIRIT'S POWER TO OVERCOME IT. WALKING BY THE SPIRIT IS NOT ABOUT PERFECTION BUT ABOUT STAYING IN CONSTANT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. TODAY, IF YOU FIND YOURSELF STRUGGLING WITH THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH, REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE NO LONGER ENSLAVED TO THEM. THROUGH CHRIST, YOU HAVE THE POWER TO WALK IN FREEDOM AND LIVE A LIFE THAT REFLECTS HIM.

PRAYER:

JESUS, I BELONG TO YOU. HELP ME TO CRUCIFY MY FLESH AND KEEP IN STEP WITH YOUR SPIRIT EVERY DAY, TRUSTING IN YOUR STRENGTH TO LIVE THE LIFE YOU'VE CALLED ME TO.

Discussion Questions: Combating the Lust of the Flesh

Here are 10 discussion questions to spark reflection and conversation over the sermon on "The Lust of the Flesh" and how to walk by the Spirit:

1. What does John 10:10 reveal about the enemy's intentions for us, and how does this relate to the concept of the lust of the flesh?
2. Follow-up: How can understanding Satan's playbook help us guard against his tactics?
3. The sermon compares the lust of the flesh to temporary satisfaction and long-term pain. Can you share a time in your life when you experienced this contrast?
4. Follow-up: What did you learn from that experience?
5. Galatians 5:16-18 speaks about the tug of war between the Spirit and the flesh. What does this internal conflict look like in your daily life?
6. Follow-up: How do you respond when you feel this battle inside you?
7. Why do you think God designed us to rely on the Holy Spirit to defeat the desires of the flesh rather than allowing us to overcome them by our own strength?
8. Follow-up: How does this change your perspective on depending on God?
9. The works of the flesh listed in Galatians 5:19-21 can seem tempting because they offer temporary pleasure. Why do you think they're so appealing, even though they lead to long-term harm?
10. Follow-up: How can we combat the allure of these temporary pleasures in our lives?
11. The fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) offers a stark contrast to the works of the flesh. Which fruit of the Spirit do you find hardest to live out, and why?
12. Follow-up: What steps can you take to cultivate that specific fruit in your life?
13. The sermon emphasizes that walking in the Spirit is about a relationship with God, not about being perfect. What does walking in the Spirit look like practically in your everyday life?
14. Follow-up: How can you take your "next step" in deepening your relationship with God?
15. How does the idea that you have "crucified the flesh" (Galatians 5:24) change the way you see yourself and your struggles with sin?
16. Follow-up: What does it mean to live out this new identity in Christ?
17. The sermon says that the closer you walk with God, the more you become your "true self." How does knowing God and following Him help you discover your true identity?
18. Follow-up: In what ways have you experienced growth in becoming more of who God created you to be?
19. What role does community play in helping us defeat the lust of the flesh and walk by the Spirit? How can we support one another in this journey?
20. Follow-up: How can you be intentional in encouraging and praying for others to walk by the Spirit?