

Growth Track Two

201: Biblical Foundations for Life

Session 3: How Do I Deal With Evil?

Overview: Armed with the truth about the tension between good and evil from the previous session, students will know who the real enemies of their soul are and how to combat each of them.

Winning Our Personal Battle Over Evil:

1. I set my mind on victory.

a. I will stay alert.

1 John 5:19 NLT *We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.*

b. I will remain humble.

James 4:6-7 NIV *God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

c. I will be confident in Christ.

1 John 4:4 NCV *My dear children, you belong to God and have defeated them; because God's Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world.*

2. I learn to recognize three enemies and how to defeat them.

a. The Enemy: The World's System

- The “world” refers to the philosophy and influence that controls this earth.

1 John 2:16 NIV *For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.*

- Our Response: I choose to love the Lord.

1 John 2:15 NIV *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

b. The Enemy: The Flesh

- The flesh refers to our human disposition toward sin.

1 John 2:15-17 NJKV *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

- Our Response: I choose to live by the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-18 NIV *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

c. The Enemy: The Devil

- The devil is a fallen angel who wants to bring us with him to destruction.

Revelation 12:10-11 NIV *Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God, day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death."*

- Our Response: I choose to put on my spiritual armor.

Ephesians 6:10-13 NLT *Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all the strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.*

Objectives:

Learn It: What Satan means for harm, God can use for good.

Live It: I am battling evil as I face (name something personal). I will overcome evil by (name something personal).

Love It: By the power of the Holy Spirit, I will walk in victory!

Discussion:

1. In what ways has this session challenged your ideas about the source of your spiritual battles? (Flesh, the world, Satan).
2. What commitments are you prepared to make in winning your personal battle over evil?