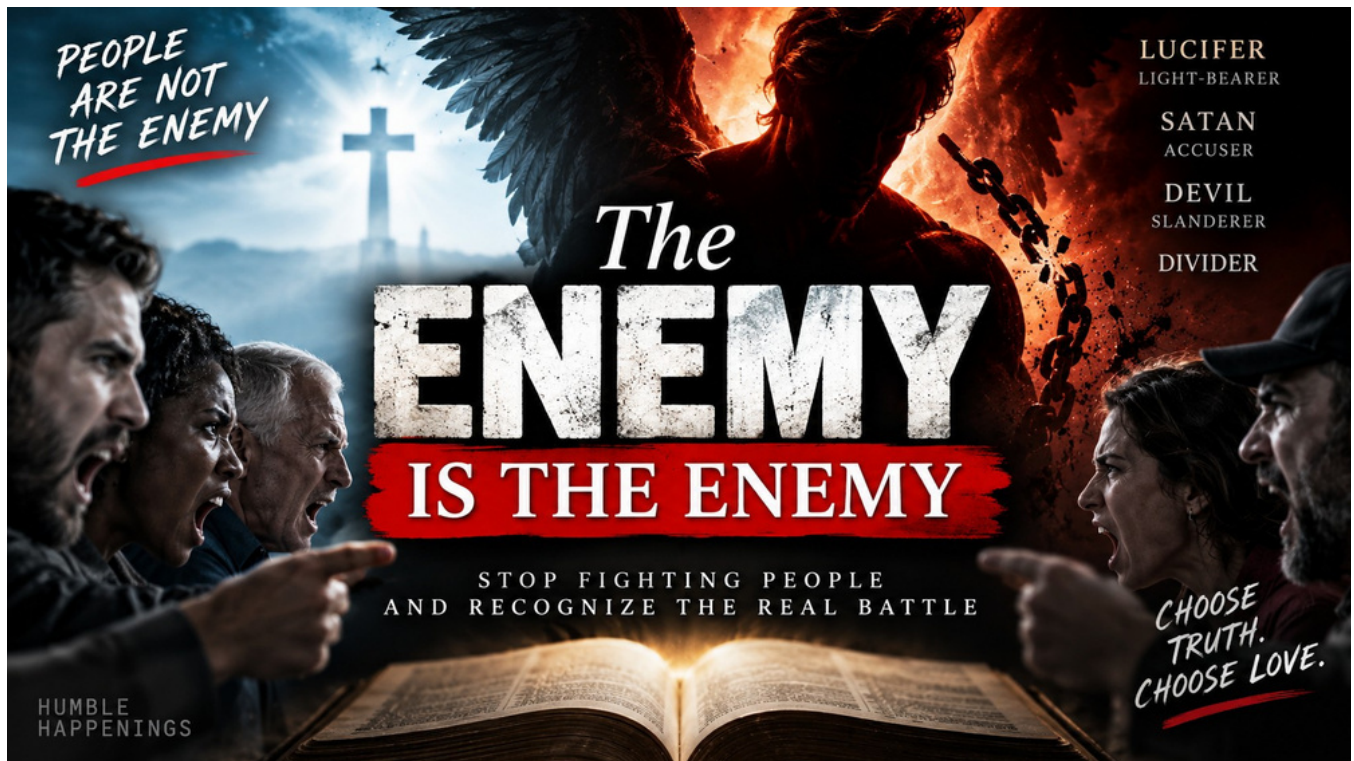




THE ENEMY IS NOT PEOPLE

It's the real battle we're missing

A Bible Study + Personal Reflection Workbook

Anchor Truth

"For our struggles not against flesh and blood..." - Ephesians 6:12

This study is designed to help you identify biblical patterns of accusation, deception, pride, temptation, fear, and division while also examining your own heart. The goal is not to blame every conflict or hardship on Satan. Scripture calls us to spiritual awareness, humility, repentance, personal responsibility, truth, and love.

How to Use This Study

Move slowly. Read each passage in your own Bible, ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom, and write honestly. This is not a checklist for diagnosing other people. It is an invitation to examine your own thoughts, words, reactions, relationships, and habits.

A healthy guardrail

Not every disagreement, intrusive thought, hardship, temptation, or painful relationship is proof of direct demonic activity. Scripture also speaks about the world, the flesh, human sin, consequences, and ordinary suffering. Test everything by Scripture, seek wise counsel, and take responsibility for your own choices.

Before you begin

- ☐ Pray for humility before you pray for discernment about anyone else.
- ☐ Read the surrounding verses, not only isolated lines.
- ☐ **Ask:** “What is God showing me about my own heart?”
- ☐ **Look for fruit:** does this thought or response move me toward truth, love, peace, repentance, and obedience?
- ☐ Do not confuse conviction with condemnation. God’s conviction leads us toward repentance and restoration, not hopelessness.

What do I hope God reveals to me through this study?

1. Who Is the Enemy?

The Bible presents Satan as a created spiritual being in rebellion against God. He is powerful, but he is not God's equal. He is neither all-knowing nor all-powerful, and his authority is limited by God.

Name / Title	Basic sense	Study references
Satan	Adversary / opponent; associated with accusation	Job 1-2; Zechariah 3:1-2; Revelation 12:9-10
Devil Serpent / Dragon Tempter	Slanderer / false accuser Deceiver and enemy mastery Entices toward disobedience Opposes truth	Matthew 4:1; John 8:44; Revelation 12:9 Genesis 3:1-5; Revelation 12:9 Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5
Father of lies	through falsehood	John 8:44
Roaring lion	Seeks someone to devour	1 Peter 5:8-9

About “Lucifer”

“*Lucifer*” is Latin for “*light-bearer*” or “*morning star*” and became traditionally associated with Satan through the interpretation of Isaiah 14:12. The Hebrew text speaks of the “*shining one, son of the dawn*.” Read Isaiah 14 in context and distinguish the wording of the passage from later Christian tradition.

Which biblical description of the enemy stands out to me most, and why?

2. The Pattern of Deception: Eden

Adam and Eve lived in communion with God and knew His command, yet the serpent still introduced distortion, suspicion, and desire. Genesis 3 gives us a pattern worth studying carefully.

Read: Genesis 3:1-13

- ☐ Questioning God's word: *"Did God actually say...?"*
- ☐ Distorting God's character and consequences.
- ☐ Appealing to desire and self-exaltation.
- ☐ Disobedience followed by shame, hiding, blame, and relational fracture.

Key observation

The serpent did not have to force Adam and Eve. Deception invited them to distrust God and choose disobedience. Spiritual warfare never removes human responsibility.

What do I hope God reveals to me through this study?

Where have I started to distrust God's goodness or motives?

When I sin or fail, do I confess, hide, justify, or blame?

3. Pride: When “I’m Right” Becomes a Trap

One of the most dangerous forms of pride is self-righteousness. We may believe we are defending truth while our hearts are becoming contemptuous, harsh, or eager to condemn another person.

Read and compare

- ☐ **Luke 18:9-14** - The Pharisee and the tax collector
- ☐ **Matthew 7:1-5** - The log and the speck
- ☐ **James 3:13-18** - Wisdom from above versus selfish ambition
- ☐ **1 Corinthians 13:1-7** - Truth and love cannot be separated
- ☐ **Philippians 2:3-5** - Humility and the mind of Christ

Discernment vs. condemnation

Discernment asks, “Is this true? Is this good? What response honors God?” Condemnation often says, “Because they are wrong, I am superior, and they deserve my contempt.”

Is there a person or group I have begun to speak about with contempt?

Have I confused being correct with being righteous?

What would humility look like without compromising truth?

4. The Accuser: What Happens When We Join the Accusation?

Read: Revelation 12:9-11; Zechariah 3:1-5; Romans 8:1, 31-34

Revelation identifies Satan as “*the accuser*.” Scripture also warns believers about slander, malicious speech, gossip, and judgment. Before repeating an accusation, ask whether you know it is true, whether it needs to be said, and whether your purpose is restoration or destruction.

Accusing pattern	Christlike alternative
Assume motives	Ask questions before conclusions
Repeat unverified claims	Seek truth before speaking
Expose to humiliate	Correct with a goal of restoration
Define someone by their worst	Remember the person still bears God’s image
moment Keep a permanent record of	Practice forgiveness while keeping wise
offenses Use truth as a weapon	boundaries Speak truth in love

Where have my words recently accused, labeled, exaggerated, or assumed motives?

Is there anyone I need to apologize to, correct a rumor about, or speak more graciously toward?

5. Division: When People Become “The Enemy”

Read: Ephesians 6:10-18; John 17:20-23; James 3:14-18; Titus 3:9-11

Scripture does not tell Christians to pretend every disagreement is harmless. It does, however, warn repeatedly about quarrels, factions, jealousy, selfish ambition, slander, and hatred. We can oppose evil without turning another human being into our ultimate enemy.

Read and compare

- ☐ Politics and ideology
- ☐ Race, ethnicity, nationality, or culture
- ☐ Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, or denominational identity
- ☐ Family conflict and old offenses
- ☐ Online arguments and social media outrage
- ☐ Workplace or ministry rivalry
- ☐ Generational conflict
- ☐ “*Us versus them*” language that strips people of dignity

Where am I most tempted to divide the world into “good people like me” and “bad people like them”?

Can I name the truth I believe without dehumanizing the person who disagrees?

6. Testing the Voice: Truth, Lies, Conviction, and Condemnation

Read: John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:8; 1 John 4:1

Christians are told to test, renew, and take thoughts captive. That does not mean every unwanted thought comes directly from Satan. Thoughts can arise from fear, habit, wounds, temptation, memory, our own desires, or spiritual attack. The response is the same: test the thought against truth and choose obedience.

Thought I am believing	What Scripture says	What I will do

Questions for testing a thought

- ☐ Is it true, or am I assuming motives?
- ☐ Does it contradict something God has revealed in Scripture?
- ☐ Does it lead me toward repentance and obedience, or toward despair and isolation?
- ☐ Does it inflate my ego or make me contemptuous of others?
- ☐ Is fear making the decision for me?
- ☐ Would I say this thought out loud in the presence of Christ?

7. Personal Inventory: Where Is the Battle Showing Up in My Life?

Circle or mark the areas that deserve prayer and attention. Do not use this page to diagnose another person. This is about your own heart and choices.

Pattern	What it may look like	Check
Accusation	I rehearse people's faults, assume motives, or feel driven to expose them.	☐
Pride	I feel spiritually, morally, intellectually, or politically superior.	☐
Division	I increasingly see entire groups of people as enemies.	☐
Fear	Fear is controlling my choices more than trust and wisdom.	☐
Deception	I accept claims that confirm what I already want to believe without testing them.	☐
Temptation	I am rationalizing something I know is disobedient.	☐
Isolation	I am withdrawing from healthy Christian community or wise correction.	☐
Unforgiveness	I keep replaying an offense and desire punishment more than restoration.	☐
Shame	After failure, I hide from God instead of confessing and returning to Him.	☐
Anger	My anger has become contempt, cruelty, or a desire to destroy another person.	☐
Distraction	I am consumed by outrage, arguments, or entertainment while neglecting prayer and obedience.	☐
Despair	I am tempted to believe God cannot redeem this situation or use me faithfully in it.	☐

Which two patterns need my attention first?

8. How Scripture Tells Us to Respond

1. Submit to God and resist evil

Read: James 4:7-10. Resistance begins with submission, humility, repentance, and drawing near to God.

2. Put on the armor of God

Read: Ephesians 6:10-18. Notice that the armor centers on truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, the Word of God, and prayer.

3. Renew your mind

Read: Romans 12:1-2 and Philippians 4:8. Replace repeated lies with what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and worthy of praise.

4. Refuse retaliation

Read: Romans 12:14-21 and Matthew 5:43-48. Loving an enemy does not require approving evil or refusing boundaries. It means refusing hatred and vengeance.

5. Stay connected to the body of Christ

Read: Hebrews 10:24-25 and James 5:16. Isolation makes correction, encouragement, confession, and accountability harder.

6. Take responsibility for your choices

Read: James 1:13-16. Temptation may be real, but “*the devil made me do it*” is not biblical accountability. We confess our own sin and turn back to God.

What is one act of obedience God may be asking of me right now?

9. The Person I Have Been Treating Like an Enemy

Choose one person or group that triggers anger, fear, contempt, or defensiveness in you. This exercise does not require unsafe contact or reconciliation without wisdom. It is about changing the posture of your own heart before God.

Who comes to mind?

What have they done or believed that I strongly oppose?

What is true about the situation, without exaggeration or mind-reading?

Where might my pride, fear, hurt, or assumptions be influencing my reaction?

What would it look like to pray for them sincerely?

Remember

Jesus did not command us to call evil good. He commanded us to love, pray, forgive, pursue truth, and leave vengeance to God.

How can I maintain truth and wise boundaries while still remembering their human dignity?

10. Seven-Day “Recognize the Real Battle” Practice

Day	Focus	Read	Practice
Day 1	Truth	John 8:31-32; 8:44	Identify one lie you have been believing. Write the truth beside it.
Day 2	Humility	Luke 18:9-14	Notice where you compare yourself favorably to someone else. Confess it.
Day 3	Speech	James 3:5-10	Go one day without gossip, labeling, or repeating unverified accusations.
Day 4	Unity	John 17:20-23	Pray for Christians you disagree with. Ask God to purify both truth and love in you.
Day 5	Forgiveness	Romans 12:17-21	Pray for Christians you disagree with. Ask God to purify both truth and love in you.
Day 6	Armor	Ephesians 6:10-18	Pray for Christians you disagree with. Ask God to purify both truth and love in you.
Day 7	Love	Matthew 5:43-48	Pray for Christians you disagree with. Ask God to purify both truth and love in you.

At the end of seven days, what changed in my thinking, speech, or relationships?

11. Prayer of Humility, Discernment, and Love

Prayer

Father, search my heart and show me where pride, fear, accusation, deception, bitterness, or division has taken root. Forgive me for the times I have treated another person as though they were my ultimate enemy. Give me wisdom to recognize evil without becoming hateful, courage to stand for truth without becoming self-righteous, and humility to receive correction when I am wrong. Guard my mind from lies and my mouth from slander. Teach me to resist temptation, forgive as You have forgiven me, keep wise boundaries where they are needed, and pray for those who oppose me. Help me remember that my struggle is not against flesh and blood. Make me faithful to Christ in the way I think, speak, discern, and love. Amen.

Truths to remember

- ☐ God is God. Satan is not His equal.
- ☐ Jesus Christ is Lord.
- ☐ Another human being is not my ultimate enemy.
- ☐ I can discern evil without becoming hateful.
- ☐ I can tell the truth without slandering.
- ☐ I can hold boundaries without seeking vengeance.
- ☐ I am responsible for my own choices.
- ☐ Humility is not weakness.
- ☐ Love does not require calling evil good.
- ☐ The goal is faithfulness to Christ, not winning every argument.

My closing prayer:

12. Scripture Study List

Use this page for deeper study. Read each passage in context and write what you observe about God, humanity, temptation, deception, spiritual warfare, and the Christian response.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Genesis 3:1-13 | ☐ Job 1-2 |
| ☐ Zechariah 3:1-5 | ☐ Matthew 4:1-11 |
| ☐ Matthew 5:43-48 | ☐ Matthew 7:1-5 |
| ☐ Luke 18:9-14 | ☐ John 8:31-44 |
| ☐ John 17:20-23 | ☐ Romans 8:1, 31-39 |
| ☐ Romans 12:1-21 | ☐ 1 Corinthians 6:1-3 |
| ☐ 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 | ☐ 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 |
| ☐ Galatians 5:13-26 | ☐ Ephesians 4:25-32 |
| ☐ Ephesians 6:10-18 | ☐ Philippians 2:1-8 |
| ☐ Philippians 4:4-9 | ☐ James 1:13-20 |
| ☐ James 3:13-18 | ☐ James 4:1-10 |
| ☐ 1 Peter 5:6-10 | ☐ 1 John 4:1-6 |
| ☐ Revelation 12:7-12 | |

Final reflection

After completing this study, how would I finish this sentence: *“The enemy is the enemy, and therefore I will...”*
