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A Web of Lies



UPCI
YOUTH MINISTRIES

PREVIEW

The enemy would love nothing more than to catch us in a web of lies he spins about our lives. This lesson will help us understand who we are, and, more important, who's we are.

PRAISE

Let's play a game of true/false. Ask as many questions as time allows. Club members are NOT allowed to use their phones to look up these answers:

1. Prince Harry is taller than Prince William—True or False (False—Prince William is 6'2" and Prince Harry is 6'1")
2. Idina Menzel sings the words "let it go" twelve times in the song "Let It Go"—True or False (True)
3. M&M stands for Mars and Moordale—True or False (False—M&M stands for Mars and Murrie)
4. The unicorn is the national animal of Scotland—True or False (True)
5. Cinderella was the first Disney princess—True or False (False—Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was released first in December 1937)
6. Your "radius" bone is in your leg—True or False (False—It's one of the biggest bones in your forearm)
7. Coffee is made from berries—True or False (True—When coffee berries turn from green to bright red, this indicates ripeness and they are picked, processed, and dried before being roasted and turned into coffee)
8. An octopus has three hearts—True or False (True—An octopus has one main, systemic heart to pump blood around its body; the two additional hearts pump blood over each of its gills)

PARABLE

Has anybody here ever played the game Mafia? The game itself was allegedly created by Dmitry Davidoff of the Moscow State University Psychology Department as a research project, and then eventually spread to college campuses in Europe and the United States.

The objective of the game is for the mafia to "kill off" civilians until they are the majority, or for the civilians to kill off the entire mafia. When one of those two things happens, the game is over. Friendships have been ruined because of this game...LOL!

Once you are killed, you are allowed to see the roles of those in the game: who was the doctor, who was the sheriff, who are townspeople, and, most important, who is the Mafia member that "killed you off" from the game. You can't say anything because dead men can't talk. You see the true identity of the enemy only when you're no longer involved in the game. While you were playing the game, you had to convince the rest of the players you were not who they said you were.

PRESENT

Jesus called him "father of lies" (John 8:44). John called him "the devil" (Rev. 12:9) and "the accuser" (Rev. 12:10). No matter what you call him, the enemy is the one who tells you that you're not good enough and never will be . . . and that's simply not true. The truth is, because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross and His Spirit in you, you are good enough.

The devil can't take away the promises of God. He can't change the truth of who you are and what you have in Christ. But he can put a question mark at the end of those promises to cause you to question if God's Word is really true and if it applies to you. He can put a question mark at the end of God's commands in an attempt to get you to question if His promises are applicable for today. Anytime you have a thought that begins with the words "Did God really say . . ." you need to stop and ask yourself, Where did that thought come from? Most of our decisions that lead us in a path away from God's perfect plan begin with this question, just as it did for Eve (Gen. 3:1).

(Read II Cor. 2:11.) The enemy's schemes include a step-by-step progressive plan of one lie that leads to another lie that leads to another lie. The lies begin small with seemingly insignificant consequences and gradually grow larger with more destructive repercussions. Lies such as:

- "I'm so stupid."
- "I can't do anything right."
- "I'll never be able to change."

The only way to recognize the lie is to know the truth. We must know the truth so when a counterfeit comes along, we immediately recognize that it is false.

PRACTICE

When someone is training to become a bank teller, he or she is taught how to recognize counterfeit money. However, the instructors don't teach what counterfeit bills look like; they teach what genuine currency looks like. They study the markings, the coloring, and the feel of real money, so when the counterfeit comes along, the teller can recognize it. D. L. Moody once said, "The best way to show that a stick is crooked is not to argue about it or to spend time denouncing it, but to lay a straight stick alongside it." God's Word is the only straight stick—the only measuring stick that matters.

If Satan came to you in a little red suit with a pitchfork and announced himself as the devil, you wouldn't believe a word he said. But he is cunning and disguises himself as an angel of light (II Cor. 11:14). When he deceived Eve, he even quoted Scripture—albeit twisted and distorted. He has a collection of old tapes from your past, and he pushes rewind and play, rewind and play. Oh yes, he knows which buttons to push. He also uses personal pronouns like "I" instead of "you." The thoughts sound something like this: I am a failure. I am a loser. I can't do anything right. I'm ugly. The thoughts sound like you, feel like you, and before you know it, you think they are you. That's the reason it's so difficult to detect the lies. They sound just like us.

When it comes to the enemy, we don't have to outfight him; we just have to out-truth him. But first, we have to recognize the lies we've been telling ourselves. Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free." It is knowing God's truth that will help you recognize the lies and reject them.

PRAY

Jesus, we thank You for the many blessings You continue to pour out upon us. Help us to overcome the lies of the enemy and to seek truth. We know the enemy continues with his cunning tactics to try to make us believe his lies. Sometimes the images we form in our minds are so believable that we tend to reflect on the negatives instead of the positives we know are true. From this day forward, we will condemn the thoughts that the devil sends to penetrate our minds. We will confess that we will defeat the enemy by the blood of Jesus and the Word of our testimony. Lord, we pray that every weapon formed against us will fail. We declare and decree this in Jesus' name, amen!

PLUS

If time allows, and the size of your P7 Club is appropriate, play a game of Mafia before everyone leaves the club.