

### Who is Satan?

**Intro:** The Scriptural embodiment of evil is better known as the devil, Satan, Lucifer, the prince of the power of the air, Beelzebub, and the accuser, among others. Though Satan is mentioned in several passages in both the Old and New Testaments, there is no full account given in any one place and so our knowledge must come by combining the various passages between Genesis and the Revelation. Nonetheless, there has been much written about Satan throughout the ages, and there is much ascribed to him both inside and outside of the Bible. However, during the age of the Enlightenment the belief in a literal embodiment of evil began to wane. Indeed, as recent as 1991, only 51% of those polled believed in the reality of a literal devil. But beliefs have begun to swing the other way – and a significant swing at that. In 2001 (prior to 9/11) over 68% believed in a literal Satan, and today that number has risen slightly to 69% (though this is statistically unchanged). The rise might be the result of a cultural awareness that there really is an unexplainable evil at work in our world. Or it might be because the age of the Enlightenment is waning and a cultural openness to the supernatural is on the rise. In any event, this week you will have the opportunity to explore the Scriptures for yourself and come to your own conclusions about the reality of Satan and his work in the world.

**What the Bible Teaches:** Break into Groups of Four, read the following Bible verses, and discuss the questions. You may want to jot down notes and thoughts on the back of this page.

**Revelation 12:7-9; Genesis 3:1-5; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 2 Peter 2:4.** How does the Bible describe Satan?

**Matthew 4:1; Luke 8:11-12; Luke 13:10-16; Hebrews 2:14; 1 Peter 5:8-9.** According to these passages, what does Satan do?

**Ephesians 6:11, 16; Acts 26:16-18; James 4:7.** What do these additional Bible passages teach about Satan?

**What I Believe:** Take ten minutes for silent reflection and thought. Ask yourself what you believe about who Satan is. Use the back of this page to formulate a response to the question:

“Who is Satan”

Write your final response here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Articulations:** Pair up with one other person and share your response with one another. Take five minutes each. Try to *not* look at your written statement; instead, try to tell your beliefs from your heart. This will prepare you to share whenever you are asked about what you believe.

**Therefore:** Jesus said His followers should Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). One of the first steps in making disciples is being ready and able to share the reason for the hope we have (1 Peter 3:15), in other words, knowing what we believe, why, and then being able to share it. Sharing your faith is important. This week, find someone—it can be *anyone*—and articulate your belief about this issue. If you have an unchurched/unreached friend whom you can share with, all the better (you can always say you have a homework assignment from church and you'd like to share it with them). Be ready to talk about your experience next week over the meal at your House Church.