

OVERCOMING THE ENEMY

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PLEASE NOTE!

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Introduction

This Bible lesson has been written to teach children about God's love and care for them, especially as they face difficult situations. The lesson has applications for both saved and unsaved children.

Objective

An objective is given for the lesson to try to help you think out what you want to see happen, by God's grace, in the life of the children. The objective expresses the desire and goal of the teacher. It does not guarantee that this will happen automatically. The objective for this lesson is expressed as "The children will understand that Satan is a powerful foe; they will take three steps in overcoming him". That is the teacher's prayer, desire and objective - but only the Holy Spirit can make that a reality in the life of the child.

Teaching Bible truths

We fall short of our responsibility as teachers if we only tell children Bible stories. It is essential that children learn the truths those stories were written down to teach us, and that we then take them a step further to show what that truth means to them in their daily lives. Of course, we cannot in one lesson cover all the teaching any particular story would provide, so one central truth has been chosen. The teaching of the central truth has been woven throughout the narrative, but to help you in your preparation the teaching sections have been marked "CT". These are also marked out in the lesson plan.

You will notice that the central truths are marked with a "U" or an "S" to show the kind of children the truth is applied to - unsaved or saved. This is also made clear in the text by using phrases such as, "If you have not trusted the Lord Jesus to forgive your sin ..." or, "Christian, you ...".

The application of the truth has been highlighted with a line beside the text. You may feel it necessary to adapt the applications to better suit the children you teach. For example, the application may use a boy's name, yet you have only girls present. It could be that the application given is more applicable to older children, while yours are very young. Make the changes you feel are necessary. The important thing is that the Word of God is applied to their lives.

Make yourself available for counselling

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not at a later date tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say.

As you teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have.

For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

An example for use with the unsaved child

“Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but don’t know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I’ll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can’t take away your sin - only the Lord Jesus can do that - but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under that tree.”

An example for use with the saved child

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

Teaching methods

Often children who are living in these difficult circumstances are rebellious and difficult to control in class. For this reason, a variety of methods of teaching have been used to involve the children, hold their attention and reinforce the learning process. Methods include narrative, questions, interviews, group study, object lessons, role play, etc. Teachers need to prepare the lessons well in advance, as sometimes they will need the cooperation of other helpers, for example in the acting out of a Biblical scene or role play.

Memory verses

A Scripture verse to teach the children is suggested for this lesson.

Extra visual aids

On a piece of card print out the words of the central truth for this lesson; back it with pieces of flocked paper. (Use lower case letters, so that even the younger ones can read the words easily.) Put this card on the board at the beginning of the class or when you first teach the central truth in the lesson.

Additional helps

Along the left and right margins additional helps are provided, giving background information and optional ideas on how to add interest to your lesson.

These ideas are designed to incorporate different learning styles. For effective learning, some children need to see or write, others need to hear or speak, others need to touch or handle, and still others need active participation.

You can use these ideas in your club as time allows.

Review questions

For this lesson some review questions are given. These can be used after the lesson or the following week, before teaching the new lesson.

Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught, while still being fun for the children. You can use this time ...

- 1 to find out how much the children are understanding and remembering.
- 2 to help you as a teacher to know what you need to emphasise more so that the children will remember better.
- 3 to provide a time of fun in the class. The children like competition and look forward to this part of the programme. But it is more than just a game: it is a time of learning.

In this textbook only questions on the lesson are included. It would be profitable to include questions also on the songs, verse and whatever else you teach. In this way the children realise that every part of the programme is important.

Overcoming the Enemy

Scripture for teachers

1 Peter 5:8-9
Luke 22:31-34,54-62
James 4:7

The points in this lesson flow most naturally from the New International Version, if you wish to use it.

Central truth

The Lord Jesus gives strength to stand up to Satan

Application

Unsaved: Trust in the Lord to save you from the power of Satan

Saved: Trust in the Lord to overcome Satan's attacks

Objective

The children will understand that Satan is a powerful foe. They will take three steps in overcoming him.

Where to use

This lesson is written thinking of children who face temptations of all kinds. Particular application is made to the temptation for older children to abuse drugs, steal and to use alcohol due to peer pressure. If you feel that the applications are not suitable to your group, adapt to the needs of your children. The temptations your children are facing may be to tell lies, to cause trouble at school or bully children that are of a different colour or race. In that case, apply as needed. The lesson can be used to evangelise unreached children at any time. It has also much teaching for Christian children.

Memory verse

“Resist him, steadfast in the faith” 1 Peter 5:9a (NKJV)

“Resist him, standing firm in the faith” 1 Peter 5:9a (NIV)

It might be better to teach the verse after the lesson rather than before.

Visual aids

- ◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4 and 5-5
- ◆ You may wish to cover flashcard 5-2 and uncover a quarter of the picture as you answer each of the four questions. Before the class begins, copy the four questions on pages 13-14. Place each question in an envelope with the corresponding number written on the front of each envelope and give each envelope to a child. At the right moment the child can bring up the envelope, read the question and help you to put it on the board.
- ◆ Central truth written on a card
- ◆ The words of 1 Peter 5:8-9a written on a board or sheet of card

Teaching methods

This lesson is not based primarily on a Bible story, though there is one scene from Peter's life. It is based instead principally on 1 Peter 5:8-9a. Make sure that all the children can see these verses. Constantly refer to them, getting answers from the text itself. Questions are used as well as role-play and a short object lesson. A review quiz is included to reinforce learning.

Lesson outline

Introduction

Lion stalking deer

Progression of events

- 1 The devil is like a lion trying to destroy us **CTU**
- 2 To overcome him we need to stand firm in the faith **CTU**
- 3 Be self-controlled and alert **CTS**
- 4 Resist the devil **CTS**
- 5 God's promise - “he will flee from you” (James 4:7)

Conclusion

With Jesus by your side you can overcome

CTU, CTS

Lesson

Flashcard 1

Have you ever seen on television a film about how a lion hunts for food? Perhaps you have seen a nature programme that showed a lion hunting deer in Africa. The lion lies watching and waiting in the long grass and then suddenly he jumps out, and chases a little deer. Usually the lion catches the little animal, kills it and eats it.

We always feel sorry for the deer because it looks so helpless before the big, strong lion, its enemy.

The Bible tells us that we too have a powerful enemy. In fact the Bible compares him to a lion. Let's read what it says in 1 Peter 5:8.

“The devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8b).

But right away here is something very important to know.

God gives strength to stand up to Satan. God is all-powerful. He is much stronger than Satan.

Read (or have an older child, who was prepared beforehand, read) the verse from your Bible.

Show card with central truth.

Teaching method: Questions and answers.

Question 1

Flashcard 2

Who is our enemy?

Call on the child with envelope 1. Place the question on the board.

Yes, Satan, the devil. Let's see how soon you can guess what the whole picture will show on the board.

Some people think that because we can't see him or hear him, that there is no devil, that he does not exist.

Question 2

How do we know that there really is a devil?

Envelope 2. Place the question on the board.

There are many ways of knowing that he exists, but the best way is simply by reading about him in God's Book, the Bible. Many times in the Bible God clearly tells us that there is a devil.

Read 1 Peter 5:8 again.

Question 3

What does he want to do to us?

Envelope 3. Place the question on the board.

Yes, he wants to devour us. That does not really mean that the devil wants to eat us, but rather that he wants to destroy us.

Some people laugh and joke about the devil. But if we think of him as a lion, it is no laughing matter. The devil is God's enemy and yours too. He wants to destroy you.

Question 4

How does he want to destroy us?

Envelope 4. Place the question on the board.

Now you can see the whole picture that shows the devil like a lion. He wants to destroy us by tempting us to do wrong things that displease God. He tries to make us sin. It is really the devil who puts those evil thoughts in your heart and in your mind. He whispers,

- ◆ “Pretend you don’t hear your mother calling.”
- ◆ “Take that money in the drawer. No one will miss it.”
- ◆ “Look at that dirty video.”
- ◆ “Try those drugs that your parents warned you never to take. They may be dangerous but they will give you a special ‘kick’. Some of your friends have already tried them.”
- ◆ “Take that drink of beer that your parents don’t allow you. It’s fun to be disobedient.”

Have you been aware of those kinds of thoughts? That is the work of the devil. Have you done what he suggested? If you have, you have sinned against God. Sin separates you from God and if you go on doing those wrong things, God will have to punish you by sending you away from His presence forever.

Flashcard 3

How can we overcome the devil, or Satan as he is sometimes called in the Bible? Let’s go back to this verse in God’s Word and see what He tells us.

God tells us to be “steadfast in the faith” (1 Peter 5:9a). What does that mean? To “have faith” means to trust in someone. You and I are not strong enough to stand up to Satan in our own strength. We need to trust in somebody else to help us, somebody who is much stronger than Satan. Who is that? That person is the Lord Jesus Christ. Being “steadfast in the faith” means to stand firm.

Let’s imagine that you are in the jungle and a lion is chasing you! I don’t suppose that this will ever happen, but let’s pretend! Somehow you are able to jump up on a very high rock that the lion cannot possibly reach. You could stand on that rock (you would be steadfast) and not be afraid of the lion.

In a way, that is a picture of what you must do to escape from the power of the devil. In some parts of the Bible, the Lord Jesus is called the rock of our salvation. You need to run to Him to be saved from the power of Satan. You are not strong enough to stand up to the devil by yourself. But if you put your faith in the Lord Jesus, He is all-powerful. The Lord Jesus is much stronger than Satan and He can save you from the attacks of the devil.

It cost Him a lot to become your Saviour. Because of your sin, you deserved to be punished by God. But the Lord Jesus took the terrible punishment and died on the cross, though He never did anything

CTU

CTU

Point out the words where you have written them.

Show card with central truth.

wrong. God raised Him to life again and He is alive forever to save you from your sin and from the power of your great enemy, the devil.

From your heart, you could say something like this to the Lord Jesus, “Lord Jesus, I know that I am not strong enough to overcome Satan. He wants to destroy me and separate me from You forever. I have often done the wrong things that he has tempted me to do. There is something inside me that makes me want to obey him. Please forgive me. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. Change me and save me.”

If you pray like that to the Lord, from your heart, He will certainly hear you and save you. We have His promise, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

If you want to trust in the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, but are not just quite sure how to take that step, come to me after the class and tell me that. I’ll be at the door saying goodbye to everyone. I’ll be very glad to talk more with you and show you how you could have Jesus as your Saviour today.

Make yourself available for personal counselling.

Flashcard 4

Let’s go back to the verse and see what more God says to us in His Word. Here’s another little phrase, “Be sober, be vigilant” (1 Peter 5:8a). “Sober” means self-controlled. Can anyone tell me what “vigilant” means?

Point out the words where you have written them.

Allow the children to answer.

To “be vigilant” means that you are aware of danger, you are watching out for an attack of the devil, you are thinking how to defeat him. God guided the apostle Peter to write down these words. I wonder was Peter himself always alert to the sudden attacks of the devil? No, he was not!

Teaching method: Story from the life of Peter.

Peter was one of the close friends of the Lord Jesus whom Jesus had chosen to be with Him and to learn from Him. After Jesus had spent three years with His followers, He knew that it was almost time for Him to suffer and to die. He was going to take the punishment that we deserved for all the wrong things that we have done. He was going to die a very cruel death. He told the disciples this and at once Peter spoke up and said, “Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death” (Luke 22:33). He was proud and boastful of his own strength.

Jesus turned to him and said sadly, “Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me” (Luke 22:34).

That very night soldiers came and arrested the Lord Jesus. From a distance Peter watched what was happening.

A servant girl said to Peter, “You were with Jesus, weren’t you?” (from Luke 22:56).

Peter replied with a lie telling her that he did not know Jesus. Two other people also said that they knew that Peter was one of the people who had followed Jesus. Peter insisted that he did not know Jesus and the third time he even began to swear and to use bad language. Just then the cock crowed and Peter remembered what Jesus said to him and he felt so ashamed that he cried very bitterly. He had not been alert to the attack of Satan and he had been caught in the devil’s trap.

Even those who have Jesus as their Saviour will be tempted by Satan. We need to be alert or, like Peter, we will fall into the temptation to tell lies, to use bad language, to be boastful and proud. Satan is constantly trying to make us do wrong, to drive us away from God and to destroy us. This is what he wanted for Peter, but he did not succeed.

Later on Peter learned to trust in the Lord Jesus for the strength to be alert and to overcome temptation. He did so many, many times in very difficult situations.

Flashcard 5

To overcome Satan we must:

- 1 Be steadfast.
- 2 Watch out.
- 3 Let’s pick out another instruction from God - “Resist him” (1 Peter 5:9a).

Resist means “say no to him”, “don’t listen to him or obey him.” You need to have the help of the Lord Jesus in your life to do that. With His help you can say “no” to the devil. Satan will often try to tempt you to do wrong through other people. You must say “no” to them too.

Let’s imagine some situations when you are tempted to do wrong and we will think out how to say “no” and we’ll practise doing it.

- (a) Let’s imagine that you are in a shop and a boy who is with you says, “No-one is looking, let’s take one of these bars of chocolate. We can slip it into our coat pockets easily enough. I bet you’re too scared to do it!”

How would you reply to that boy? If you love the Lord Jesus, you might answer like this, “No, I am not scared, but I want to please God. I cannot do that.”

At this point you might act out this little scene. You the teacher could be the “bad friend”. If you have Christian children with a good testimony in the class, one of them could act out that part. If you do not have believers in the class, you could take the part of the bad friend and have a helper or the hostess take the part of the Christian child who resists the temptation.

CTS

Teaching method:
Review.

Point out the words where
you have written them.

CTS

Teaching method: Role
play.

- (b) Let's imagine you are at a party in a friend's house and an older man who is there says, "Here, let me get you a beer. You are getting pretty big and can act like a man now. Or are you still a little child and not able to take the strong stuff?"

How will you resist this temptation? It's a bit hard because you don't want to be rude to this man who maybe thinks he is being kind. But you want him to know that taking beer is not the way to show that you are a strong man. If you have trusted in the Lord to be your Saviour, you could say something like this, "Thank you for your kindness. But I'm not the age to take alcohol yet. And I want to keep my body strong so I really don't want to start 'drinking'. Thank you anyway."

Act out this scene. Make sure that the children get the idea that saying "no" is a strength and not a weakness.

- (c) Your parents have allowed you to go to a football match with some of your friends. After paying for your tickets you have some money left in your pocket. As you are waiting for the match to begin, a teenager in the crowd whispers to you, "Want to buy an e-tablet? It will give you a 'high' that you can't even begin to imagine. This is really potent stuff and I'll sell it to you really cheap."

What will you answer? You can't tell a lie and say that you don't have any money. Would you be brave enough to say, "No thank you, I'm a Christian and I don't use drugs"? The teenager might say something nasty back to you but you have to be brave and be ready for that.

Act out the scene with you as the drug pusher. After the Christian child answers "no", come back with some nasty remark like "Sissy" or "You're still a little baby". Help the Christian child not to react aggressively. You might have to act the scene more than once to get it right and really prepare the children for a similar situation in real life.

Teaching method:
Review.

Let's think of our three steps for overcoming the devil.

- 1 Be steadfast, stand firm in the faith - that means to trust in the Lord Jesus to save us and to help us.
- 2 Be alert to the attacks of Satan.
- 3 Resist him.

Read the verse from your Bible.

There's a wonderful promise in God's Word as we follow those steps. Here is what God promises, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you"(James 4:7).

We cannot stand up to Satan in our own strength, but by God's strength we can resist the devil and he will run away from us. The devil is really a coward and he can be made to run away. Isn't that good?

Teaching method: Object lesson.

Look at this little toothpick. Let's see if you could break it.

Let a child take it and break it.

That was so easy, wasn't it? Now here I have a big strong nail that I am going to tie to this other toothpick.

Do so and hand it to a child.

Now try to break the toothpick. You can't because it is so close to the metal nail.

The little toothpick reminds us of how weak we are. The devil wants to tempt us to do wrong. He wants to break and destroy us. He can do that quite easily because he is very strong. But when you trust in the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour, He comes to live with you and in you by His Spirit. He is much more powerful than Satan and He can help you to say no to every temptation.

How about you? Have you asked the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour and to forgive your sin? If you are to escape from Satan's power, that is the first thing you must do. Right now or after the class or when you go home tonight, you can call on the Lord and ask Him to save you. He is able and so willing to do that.

If you have already trusted in Christ as your Saviour, ask Him each day to help you to be alert and to say "no" to Satan and his attacks. Thank the Lord Jesus that He is so strong and that He can help you to stand up to the attacks of the devil and do what pleases God.

Review questions

- 1 How do we know that there really is a devil if we cannot see him? (Especially because the Bible tells us so.)
- 2 Why is he compared in the Bible to a lion? (He is constantly looking for his prey; he is very strong and cruel.)
- 3 What does he want to do to us? (He wants to devour/destroy us.)
- 4 How does he try to destroy us? (He tempts us to sin.)
- 5 The Bible tells us that to get away from the power of the devil we are to be "steadfast in the faith" (1 Peter 5:9a). What does that mean? (To trust in the Lord Jesus to save you and help you be strong.)
- 6 What is the second important thing that we picked out in this verse from God's Word? (Be alert to the attacks of Satan.)
- 7 What wrong thing did Peter do on one occasion by not being alert to the attacks of Satan? (He denied that he knew Jesus.)
- 8 What wonderful promise does God give to His children when they trust in Him and resist the devil? ("He will flee from you" James 4:7.)
- 9 Give me an example of when you should say "no" to the devil. (Examples in the text: stealing; drinking beer; taking drugs. Other examples may be given of course.)

CTU

CTS

- 10 Can you explain to us the idea of the toothpick and the nail?
(We are weak like the tooth-pick, but if we are close to Jesus we are strong.)

Carry-over activity

There is no extra carry-over activity provided for this lesson. The role play in the class provides a useful practical application.

Questions for flashcard 2

1. *Who is our enemy?*

2. *How do we know
that there really is
a devil?*

Questions for flashcard 2

3. What does he want
to do to us?

4. How does he want
to destroy us?

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).