

Session 2: The Opponent's Home Plate

- **Teaching:** 15 minutes

If you have ever heard the Lord's prayer, there is a line that reads, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." We must recognize that the world, our own temptations, and the devil and his angels are wanting to distract us from our goal of glorifying God. Pray that God would help you keep your eyes on Him and your relationship with Him.

In the game of baseball you can imagine a coach saying something like, "Don't let them in your head. Just play how you know to play." This coach is driving to an important point. By letting the opponent in your head, you're already losing ground before the game has begun.

Who is our opponent? At the center of the opposing team is Satan and his angels. Playing for his team are our own *desires* and the fallen world.

The devil and has a tried and true tactic: if he can't make you sin, he will keep you distracted. He will attack and draw your eyes from God and into a fight with him. We are to resist temptation and immediately return to our goal of drawing near to God.

- **Small Group Discussion:** 45 minutes

Read **James 4:7**. Resist Satan and he will flee from you. **DON'T GO CHASING HIM**. Satan would love to distract you from your plan. Now read the next verse, **James 4:8**. Resist Satan and return to your goal.

It is important to recognize that we are not trying to win on our own. Alone, we cannot overcome Satan. It is only when we surrender the struggle over to Jesus that we can have victory. Take a look at **Jude 1:9**.

Why do YOU need to resist the opponent?

How do YOU resist the opponent?

Discuss some of your goals with the group.

Know God Jesus is on every page of the Bible! It would not take long to find trouble. In fact, it takes a great deal of work to stay away from trouble, pain, and injustice. Though this world is broken, there is hope beyond what this world can offer.

Read **Galatians 1:3-5**. The only way we can have victory is through Jesus Christ Himself.

Read **Revelation 12:11**. Notice the three tactics that lead to victory.

- ***Find Freedom Together***

Have you ever done something over and over without problem, and then you let the opponent, the stress, the nerves, or something else into your mind? Tell a story about a time this may have happened to you.

Look back to James 4:7

What does this say about our ultimate goal/our ultimate win?

What does this reveal about the tactics of Satan?

What does this look like in a day to day life?

Now read the next verse, James 4:8.

How does this verse get us back on track; back to our goal?

Describe what happens in Jude 1:9.

What does Michael do with the fight?

What does this look like in your life?

Look back to Galatians 1:3-5.

What does this “deliver” look like?

- ***Homework: Discover Purpose and Make a Difference***

Perhaps the most specific verse regarding the way we can win the spiritual warfare before us can be found in Revelation 12:11. As you do the FIRE Journalling this week, think about the three tactics used by Michael and the angels in their warfare.

How can you use these same three plays in your playbook?

Session #2 Weekly Devotional: Day 1

Read James 4

To defeat the enemy, you need total submission to God!

F = Focus in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. *To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text?* Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

R = Respond to the text to make it applicable for your own life. *What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?*

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. *Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?*

Session #2 Weekly Devotional: Day 2

Read Jude 1

Have you surrendered the struggles of life to Jesus?

F= Focus in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. *To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text?* Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).

R = Respond to the text to make it applicable for your own life. *What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?*

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. *Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?*

Session #2 Weekly Devotional: Day 3

Read Galatians 1

The only place to find complete victory is through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ!

F= Focus in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. *To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).*

R = Respond to the text to make it applicable for your own life. *What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?*

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. *Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?*

Session #2 Weekly Devotional: Day 4

Read Revelation 12:11

Journal about the three tactics used by Michael and the angels in their warfare.

F = Focus in your journal by writing the date and the Scripture you're studying. After you've read the passage a few times, focus on a verse or two that stands out to you and then write out those verses in your journal.

I = Investigate the context around today's Scripture reading. *To whom was this written? Why? How does this passage fit with what comes before and after it? What is the Holy Spirit communicating through this text? Feel free to use Bible study tools for commentary: [Bible Study Tools](#), or [Easy English Bible](#).*

R = Respond to the text to make it applicable for your own life. *What is God saying to you personally through this passage? How can you apply what you've read?*

E = Engage God. This can either be a short prayer or an action that you can take that day after reading the text. *Is there a command to follow in the text? How are you different because of what you've learned?*
