

This midweek study will explore the existence of demons and their role in the world. Use the following outline, activity, playlist, and video ideas to lead a midweek event for your students.

Essential Doctrine: Demons

Demons are angelic beings who sinned against God and now continually work evil in the world today (Job 1:6; Zech. 3:1; Luke 10:18). Demons oppose God and seek to destroy His work, as seen in the Bible's description of Satan, the head of demons, who seeks to "steal and kill and destroy" (John 10:10). Though demons have power, they are limited by God's control and can only act within constraints God permits. In the end, all of the demons will be cast into the lake of fire, for which it was originally created.

1 Demons oppose God and seek to destroy His work (Job 1:6; Zech. 3:1).

Demons possess a completely straightforward, genuine hatred for God and His people. Their sole mission is to disrupt God's plans, God's work, and God's people.

- ▶ *How does it affect you to know that the temptation you experience is done with the sole purpose of harming you?*

Read Job 1:6.

- ▶ *What does it say about the demonic that they masquerade as an angels of light?*

It's no surprise that Satan reveals himself in beautiful ways. How else would anyone agree to anything he says? Everything Satan does is done with the intention to kill, steal, and destroy.

- ▶ *Is it surprising that Satan has to twist what God has already created? What does this say about Lucifer?*

Read Zechariah 3:1.

Demons love to hate; specifically, demons love to hate God and the things of God. One of main goals of demons in your life is to keep you from believing that God loves you and has truly forgiven you of your sin.

- ▶ *Why do demons revel in playing the role of accuser in believers' lives?*
- ▶ *What steps can you take to ensure your confidence in your salvation isn't affected by the accusations of the demonic?*

2 The power of demons is limited by God's control (Job 2:6).

Option: Ask students to try to tie their shoes using only one hand or to try writing their names with their eyes closed. Essentially, you can illustrate this concept using any normal activity with a barrier, resistance, or limitation. While you may still be able to function to a certain extent, you are hindered in accomplishing your task. Explain that God limits demons and only allows them an extremely restricted power.

Read Job 2:6.

- ▶ *How does the Lord restrict the demonic in this passage?*
- ▶ *What might be the purpose of God restricting demonic power rather than eliminating it immediately?*

While we don't know the extent of demonic power, we know that the power of Christ is overwhelmingly sufficient to meet our needs when demons oppress us.

- ▶ *How does it affect you to know that even though demonic activity occurs, God restricts their power?*

3 All demons will one day be cast into the lake of fire (Matt. 25:41).

Demonic activity is not a permanent reality. One day, God will cast Lucifer, all demons, and people who rejected Christ into the lake of fire. This is not a possibility; it is a sure fact.

- ▶ *In what ways does the demons' destiny in hell shape how you view the demonic?*

Not only is hell their destiny, but Jesus says that hell was created specifically for Satan and his angels. Hell is the place God has created specifically to cut off the demonic for eternity.

- ▶ *Why would God feel the need to create a place specifically for the Devil and his angels?*
- ▶ *How might the fact that the demonic know their destiny shape the way they interact in the world today?*

WRAP IT UP

- ▶ *How has your thinking about the demonic been shaped as a result of this study?*

Challenge students to know that demons oppose God and His work, but are limited by God's control and will one day be cast into the lake of fire. We can trust God, knowing that He is in control, even over the demonic forces around us.