



## Growth Group Reflection Questions—July 18-24

1. Warm up: Are you the kind of person who listens to warnings, (e.g., road signs, product packages, your mother!), or are you a little wild and reckless?
2. Read Colossians 2:8 to get into the spirit of the discussion. Then, all kidding aside, pray as a growth group that God would help you to heed the serious warning in this verse.
3. Do you think that the average person around you believes in the devil? Why or why not?
4. Dave shared some verses that paint a frightening picture of the devil. Review them and “know your enemy” like Dave talked about. Complete each sentence. (Remember to respect the devil’s power, but not to fear him.)
  - A. Rev. 12:10 –My enemy...\_\_\_\_\_
  - B. John 8:44—My enemy...\_\_\_\_\_
  - C. I Pet. 5:8—My enemy...\_\_\_\_\_
  - D. 2 Tim. 2:26—My enemy...\_\_\_\_\_
5. Quiz: Satan uses a three-part strategy to harass and defeat believers. Do you remember what they are? (Hint: All three start with the letter “T”)
6. One of the biggest weapons in the enemy’s arsenal is temptation. Think about areas where you are tempted (you don’t have to share them). Then read 1 Cor. 13:10. What does this amazing verse teach about how believers can defeat temptation?
7. After sharing requests, read the Lord’s Prayer and make it your closing prayer, focusing especially on the parts that deal with the devil and temptation. It’s found in Matthew 6:9-13.

*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.*

### **Colossians 2:8**

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

### **Ephesians 6:10-12**

#### **I. Describing The Enemy.**

##### **A. The Enemy’s Description**

##### **B. The Enemy’s Goal: *to gain the world’s worship by displacing God*\_\_\_\_\_.**

*How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.*

### **Isaiah 14:12-15**

**C. The Enemy's Motivation: exaltation, power and pride**

*This is what the Sovereign Lord says: 'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.'*

**Ezekiel 28:12-17**

**D. The Enemy's Strategy The Three T's**

**1. Temptations.**

**2. Trials.**

**a. The Trials of Discouragement**

**b. The Trials of Doubt**

**c. The Trials of Diversion**

*But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

**Matthew 6:33**

**d. The Trials of Defeat**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.*

**Romans 8:28**

**3. Traditions and philosophies.**

*See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.*

**Colossians 2:8**

**Captive = a prisoner, shackled in bondage**

**Hollow = empty, shallow**

**Deceptive = a fraud, a trick, a delusion**

**Philosophy = literally, love of wisdom**

**Traditions = rules, attitudes, or actions handed down from one generation to the next or from one person to another**

*So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?" He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "These people honor Me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men."*

**Mark 7:5-7**

**Basic principles of the world = elementary, simple, low level**