

# WEEK 5 | THERE IS AN ENEMY

## DAILY WORK

In Rooted this week, we are focusing on the spiritual realm. Scripture teaches Satan is the absolute enemy of God, His creation, and His people. The spiritual realm is real, and we are told to be alert to it. If we aren't careful, the enemy can gain a foothold (sometimes called a "stronghold") in our lives, because he wants us to be slaves to our sin. The good news is that Jesus can set us free from our sin-slavery because He has already defeated the enemy!

## WEEKLY OVERVIEW

Day 1: The Enemy Is Real | Read pages 88-89

Day 2: The Spiritual Realm | Read pages 91-93

Day 3: Tempting, Isn't It | Read pages 96-98

Day 4: The Enemy Within | Read pages 100-101

Day 5: Strongholds | Read pages 104-109

## MEMORY VERSE

*"For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear son." – Colossians 1:13*

## EXTRA RESOURCES

*Gary Johnson, the chairman of our elders, preached a sermon series on how to prepare ourselves to take our stand against the enemy. Below are the links to each of those sermons.*

- [Sermon 1: Ready](#)
- [Sermon 2: Aim](#)
- [Sermon 3: Fire](#)

# DAY 1: THE ENEMY IS REAL

Read pages 88-89 in your Rooted participant's guide, then prayerfully answer the following questions.

- What new thoughts do you have about Satan and his kingdom of this world?
- What comfort do you find in knowing Jesus is victorious now and in the end?
- Write a prayer expressing your gratefulness for the victory of Jesus over Satan. Pray for God to bring to mind spiritual battles you are currently facing and claim victory through Jesus Christ.

# DAY 2: THE SPIRITUAL REALM

Read pages 91-93 in your Rooted participant's guide, then prayerfully answer the following questions.

- What spiritual battles can you identify in your own life?
- In what ways do you feel dressed in God's armor, ready to fight those battles? Where don't you?
- Write a prayer using the armor of Ephesians 6:10-18. Go through each piece of armor and invite God to help you put it on each day so that you may stand strong against the enemy.

# DAY 3: TEMPTING, ISN'T IT?

Read pages 96-98 in your Rooted participant's guide, then prayerfully answer the following questions.

- Which are you most tempted by: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life?
- What examples have you seen of how the love of the world has opened the door for Satan/evil in your life?
- Write a prayer confessing your weakness and sin to God. Invite Him to show you even subtle ways where you love the world instead of Him.

# DAY 4: THE ENEMY WITHIN

Read pages 100-101 in your Rooted participant's guide, then prayerfully answer the following questions.

- Where in your life do you experience being a slave to sin and to God's law as Paul does in Romans 7?
- What are examples of where "the flesh" is winning in your life?
- What are examples of where the Holy Spirit is winning?
- Write a prayer confessing the struggle you have with your human nature. Write any current areas where your sin nature might be winning and call on the power of the Holy Spirit to claim this victory.

# DAY 5: STRONGHOLDS

One of the most effective ways to grow in intimacy with God and with others is to be honest about our struggles and sin. In your group time this week, you will be given an opportunity to share your “strongholds” with other members of your group. (Men will share with men and women will share with women).

Today’s reading and reflection experience will lay important groundwork for your time together. Please take time to read pages 104-109 in your participant’s guide and interact with the reflection experience it provides in preparation for that time. You can use the prayer template provided, or write your own.

*Father, I come before you in the name of Jesus. I recognize the power You have given me by the shed blood of Jesus to demolish spiritual strongholds in my life. I confess that I have given a foothold to sin and I renounce the stronghold of*

\_\_\_\_\_.

*I claim the truth of \_\_\_\_\_ by the authority of the name of Jesus Christ. Through your power, I take back the ground I surrendered to the enemy. I pray You will enable me to trust and obey Your Holy Spirit so that this area of my life will be in conformity to the image of Christ. Amen.*

# SHARING OF STRONGHOLDS

You will be given 3-5 minutes to confess your stronghold in Rooted this coming week (men with men and women with women). The group will use the outline below when confessing strongholds.

## SHARING OF STRONGHOLDS

Everyone is encouraged to refer to your work from day 5 of their devotionals. You may also want to have your Rooted books handy to reference pages 107-109.

When someone shares, we will follow this format (Leaders will go first to model the process and set the tone for vulnerability):

**Setting it up** - Leaders ask who will share next and who will pray for them when they are done sharing.

**Silence** - "Let's hold \_\_\_\_\_ in silence before the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ may break the silence when he/she is ready to share". Hold silence.

**Sharing** - When ready, the person sharing will break the silence and has 5 minutes to respond to the following questions in any way they feel invited.

- What types of strongholds do you struggle with that you identified on Day 5?
- What truth do you need to embrace in order to fight the lie you have believed?
- Would you be willing to read your prayer out loud and replace the lie with your true identity in Christ?

**Silence** - When the person finishes sharing, or the timer chimes the group will hold silence for 30-60 seconds.

**Prayer** - Facilitator affirms the person for sharing and invites them to be prayed over. Example: "Thank you \_\_\_\_\_ for allowing us to hold your confession." \_\_\_\_\_ will pray for you now.

## Finish with Prayer

Read Ephesians 6:10-18 over your group and close in prayer.