



Deliver Us From Evil

OBJECTIVE

To help groups understand and experience God as our ultimate defender against evil.

FOCUS THIS WEEK

We know that the struggle against the Evil One, though ultimately won in Jesus' death and resurrection, remains a very real struggle from day to day. Don't let anyone leave this session without being confronted by this truth: There is an evil that would destroy you and a power that would deliver you. There is an Evil One who would steal you away from God and a God who would die to set you free. So, what?

FAITH5 SMALL GROUP TIME



SHARE highs and lows to set the stage for a more open and meaningful discussion. Pair group members up one-on-one to share the best and worst things that happened this week. After a short while, return to small group and invite each person to share their partner's highs and lows. Encourage youth to write their personal highs and lows, those of their partner, and a short prayer on their FAITH5 Small Group Time Handout.



READ and highlight the theme verse, Matthew 6:13b, in your Bibles and circle key words. A musical version of this Scripture verse can be found at www.faithink.com, FINKlink LP08.



TALK about how the Bible reading might relate to today's highs and lows. Supplement your discussion with some of the following.

A. IMAGES IN WORDS AND ART

Take a look at the theme art and cartoons. What do you see in the art? Ask youth where they are in the art. How might the art and the theme verse apply to your group highs and lows today?

B. ROLE PLAY

1. A classmate has been reading a lot about "wicca" (witchcraft) on the web. She says it seems like fun. What is your response?
2. A friend says there is no such thing as evil, the devil, or spiritual powers. Everything is simply a matter of personal choice. How do you respond?

C. QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. What do you think is the worst thing that can happen to a young person today? Why? Draw out this discussion further by asking questions. If they describe a physical or emotional ailment, ask if they've known anyone who ever had this problem. Press them further about spiritual defeats and the ultimate loss of the soul. Read and highlight Jesus' words in Luke 9:25 in Bibles and ask kids what they think it means.

2. What do you think a conscience is? What part does a conscience play in delivering us from evil? Put them in pairs to discuss this, then get together after a few minutes. Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers. Suggest that the conscience may be a still, small voice sent from God. If we listen to it from the start, we'll be less likely to get into positions where we're faced with evil.

3. In Ephesians 6:12, St. Paul wrote: "For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." How can you fight against something you cannot see? Good question! Let kids think about this for a minute. Talk about surrounding yourself with good things that can be seen: healthy relationships, the Bible, a Christian community, prayer, service to others, etc.

D. QUOTATIONS Ask youth to choose a quotation and share their thoughts and questions about it.

E. TERMS OF THE WEEK Review these key terms and write definitions.

Deliver: To bring out of danger into safety.

Devil: God's spiritual enemy, Satan, who wants to harm God's children.

Evil: Wickedness, immorality, acting in a manner contrary to the will of God.

Rescue: To save from peril or harm.

Sin: Disobedience and rebellion against the will of God.

F. GROUP BUSINESS

1. Servant Event Idea: If permitted, help out at an Alanon meeting or visit a halfway house. Help your groups plug into (or start) peer counseling at church or at school.

2. FAITH5 Home Huddle: Encourage youth to take a few minutes for FAITH5 with their families each night at home, using the FAITH5 Journals or the Home Huddle Handout.

G. WRAP UP Summarize the event with your group, assigning someone to share what you learned at closing.

- One new thing we learned today
- One thing we already knew that is worth repeating
- One thing we would like to know more about
- The highest highs and lowest lows which our group will bring to the closing prayer



PRAY for one another. Praise and thank God for your highs. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you in your lows. Include your friend's highs and lows in your prayers. Toss a newspaper into the center of the group or invite youth to think of something going on in the world that calls for prayer. **Tip:** Gather in a circle. Hold hands, lock arms or go shoulder-to-shoulder to bond your group!



BLESS one another by name. Trace a cross on each hand or forehead. Look them in the eyes and give them a smile. As for their blessing as well!

