

ICEBREAKER: What advice can you give about how to relieve stress?

OVERVIEW: Good athletes prepare for the game by studying their opponent. They know that the better they understand their enemy, the easier it will be to defeat them. As followers of Jesus we have a highly intelligent, very powerful, and extremely dangerous enemy — the devil and his demons. To defeat them we must know them; to know them we must study them. In this discussion we will go deeper with demonology to learn all we can about overcoming demonic oppression.

- 1. Read Mark 1:21-28. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
- 2. What do the following verses teach about Satan's power over unbelievers? How do these verses affect the way you relate to unbelievers?
 - Acts 26:15-18
 - Ephesians 2:1-3
 - 1 John 3:8; 5:18

- 3. Have you been afraid of the devil/demons in the past? According to the following verses, why don't we need to fear the devil or demons?
 - Colossians 1:13-14
 - 1 John 4:4; 5:18
- 4. What can the devil do to you? Looking back on your life, how do you think you might have been oppressed by demons?
- 5. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What can we learn from this passage about overcoming demonic oppression?
- 6. What do you think is the devil's strategy against you personally? In other words, what do you think he is trying to do to you and how?
- 7. What do you need to do to make sure the devil's strategies are unsuccessful against you?

The Last Word: When you get saved Jesus places the Holy Spirit to live within you. And if God's Spirit lives in you, there's no way that Satan or his demons can enter you. You cannot be possessed, but you must be on guard against demonic oppression.

