

Week 6 – Evil is Hunting You, Part 2

1 PETER 5:8 & EPHESIANS 6:10-13

truth

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

FIG LEAVES

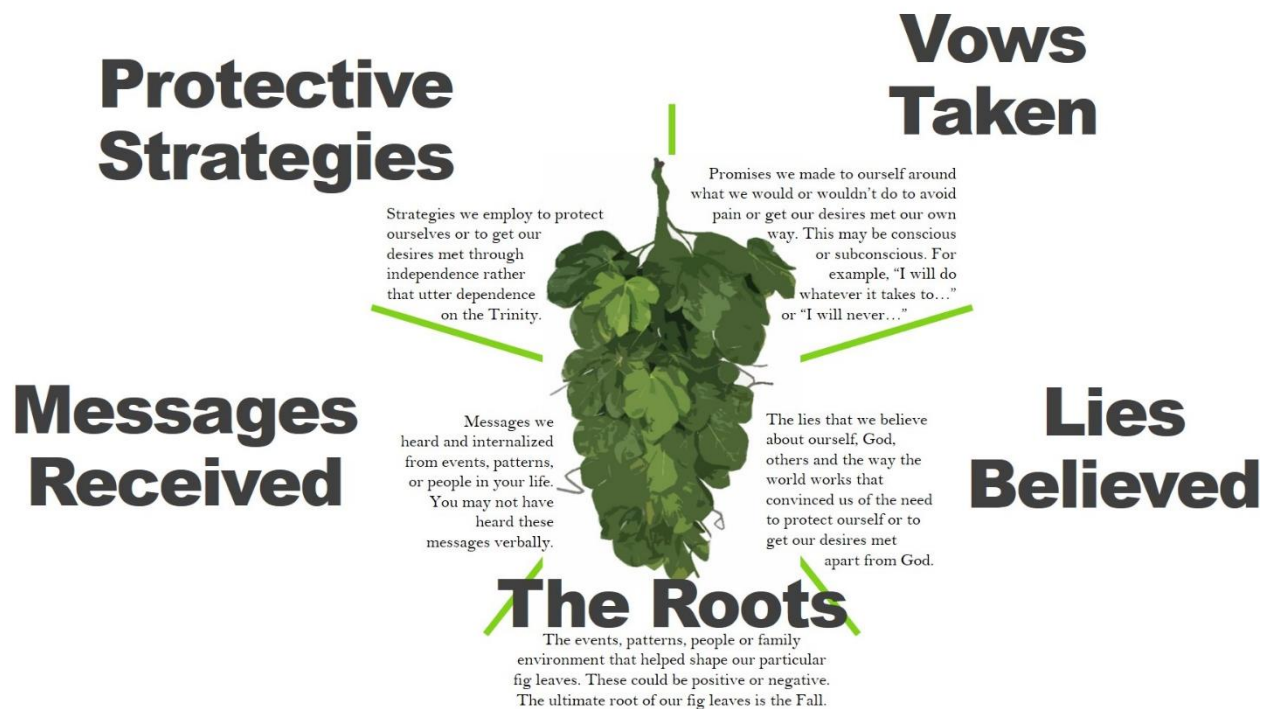
choices


Fig Leaf Nicknames, Descriptions, & Vows

The funny guy/girl: uses humor to avoid genuine intimacy. He/she never gets in touch with what is happening in his own heart.

"I will entertain people."

"I will never let others see what I feel or let them really get to know me."

The macho man: strong and dominant; isn't afraid of anything except getting in touch with the depths of his own soul and the soul of another human being.

"I will be strong."

"I will never show weakness, allowing others to exploit me or think less of me."

The risk manager: plays it safe and never engages.

"I will be successful and keep my life under control."

"I will never risk failure."

The people pleaser: a nice guy/girl; avoids conflict and never expresses real strength.

"I will be likeable."

"I will never risk rejection by taking a stand or confronting others."

The expert: has all the answers but isn't really asking the right questions.

"I will always have the answer but never get personal."

"I will never risk anyone seeing me as unknowledgeable."

The sarcastic guy/girl: deflects or uses sarcasm to keep from getting in touch with the depths of his positive or negative emotions.

"I will use my wit to keep people at a distance."

"I will never let them see what I feel or desire, or let them really know me."

The hard worker: works hard to get it right.

Performs to meet the deep longing for acceptance and approval.

"I will always be successful and earn their respect."

"I will never risk anyone's seeing me as incompetent."

The fixer: has a solution for every problem but never goes deep enough to find the true root. Is afraid to plunge below the surface of their heart or another's.

"I will always provide a solution and fix every problem."

"I will never risk anyone's discovering that I don't have all the answers."

Types Of Lies & Messages

I AM statements

I am alone

I am a disappointment

I am a failure

I am a fraud

I am a jerk

I am not a real man

I am a nuisance

I am powerless

I am rejected

I am stupid

I am ugly

I am unwanted

I am weak

I am worthless

Derogatory remarks

You idiot; you blew it again.

Finally, this time you did it right.

Don't be a baby. Suck it up. Grow up.

Be a man. Grow a pair. Toughen up.

You don't measure up. You'll never be good enough.

Why would anyone give a rip about you?

You screwed it up again; no surprise there.

What good are you if you can't even...

(make them laugh, get this right, etc.)

Do you ever get anything right?

How could anyone love you?

Lies about God, others, and the way the world works.

No one will love/accept/value me unless

I am funny/helpful/competent/etc.

I am on my own. I can't trust anyone to take care of me.

Regardless of what I do, it won't change anything.

People are not safe. I can't let them truly see/know me.

Your **ADVERSARY**

the devil prowls
around like a roaring

LION, seeking

someone to devour.

RESIST HIM!



WINNING THE BATTLE



DAY 1 –

Fig Leaves, Strategies & Vows

READ 1 Kings 12:1-15 AND PRAY asking the Father to protect your heart today from PRIDE.

Consider how the way of pride manifests in your life. When you are under pressure; when you feel disappointed, embarrassed, angry, frustrated; when someone has attacked you; or when you have undeniably failed; how do you respond with:	Independence? Image-management? Indulgence? Self-inflation?
How do you often:	Dominate? Withdraw?
Review the Fig Leaf Nicknames, Descriptions, & Vows. If any samples resonate, list them here.	Nicknames/descriptions: Protective strategies: Vows:
Reflect and pray...	Take a few moments to offer what you are now experiencing to the Father. Trust Him to guide you into being the man or woman that He created you to be, that Jesus redeemed you to be, that the Holy Spirit is restoring you to be, and that you long to be.

DAY 2 –

Lies & Messages

READ Ephesians 6:10-19 AND PRAY asking Jesus to grant you His strength today.

The following questions may help you get in touch with the lies you believe and the messages you have heard.

What do you tell yourself when things don't go right or maybe when they are going well? See examples to the right. This type of statement may give a clue to the lies that you believe about how you can be loved, accepted, or approved.	For example, "I'm stupid." "You idiot." "Finally, this time I really did it right."
When it's time to step up and engage and you don't, what do you hear that keeps you from engaging? See examples to the right.	For example, you hear the voice of an authority figure, your own voice or the voice of the enemy saying, "You just don't have what it takes to be a winner." "It's too much work. Regardless of what I do it won't change or anything."
When you get angry what voice do you hear? See examples to the right.	For example, when your friend or spouse appropriately challenges you, and you become inappropriately angry, what voice are you hearing? "You just aren't good enough." "You'll never measure up." "I'm tired of waiting."
Reflect again on the "Types of Lies" section. Note any here that resonate.	<p>"I am" statements:</p> <p>Derogatory remarks:</p> <p>Other lies:</p>
Reflect and pray...	Call out to the Shepherd of your soul. He loves you, protects you, and is pursuing you right now. Surrender to Him.

DAY 3 –

Truth

READ Psalm 1 AND asking the Lord to plant your heart by the streams of His holy word today.

In response to our Fig Leaves, the Vows we've taken, the Lies we've believed, and the Messages we've received, we absolutely need the word of God. Today you will uncover 4-5 truths of scripture that best counter your fig leaves. Choose from the categories below or identify some of your own. Then take the next step and write your chosen verses somewhere you will see them often – on a whiteboard in your office, on your bathroom mirror, in your planner, etc.

Suffering	Rest
Psalm 56:3-4 James 1:2-3	Matthew 11:28-30 <i>28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."</i>
Sonship	Temptation
Titus 3:4-6 John 1:12-13	James 1:12 Colossians 3:1-3
Jesus	Anxiety
1 Timothy 2:5 Philippians 2:5-11	Romans 8:1-2 Philippians 1:6
Fruitfulness	Hope
John 15:5 <i>5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.</i>	1 Peter 1:3-5 Psalm 62:5-7

Reflect and pray...

Take a few moments to offer what you are now experiencing to the Lord. He is a good, good Father. He will not give you a stone when you ask for bread. He wants you to feed on His word that you may be rooted and grounded in the truth of who He is and who He is making you to be.