

TACTICS

> WINNING THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH <
— IN AN AGE OF DECEPTION —

A 13-WEEK DEVOTIONAL FIELD GUIDE



RECOGNIZE DECEPTION. | THINK BIBLICALLY. | STAND CONFIDENTLY. | LIVE ON MISSION.

★
ROCKFISH CHURCH RESOURCE

TACTICS: WEEK 2

THE ENEMY'S PLAYBOOK

*Every temptation begins with a distorted view of God.
Satan's greatest weapon has never been force—it has
always been deception..*

MISSION BRIEF

Satan rarely attacks head-on. He probes for weakness, plants doubt, and challenges what God has said. Deception gains ground when truth becomes uncertain. Once God's authority is questioned, culture quickly replaces His truth with whatever feels acceptable.

TRAINING OBJECTIVE

Discern when Satan uses misinformation to pull our focus away from truth and lead us to question what God has spoken.

Read: 1 John 2:15–16

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

*Worldly desires entice us to question God's boundaries
and undermine His authority.*

Week Two Battle Rhythm:

Day	Focus	Question
1	Objective + Tactics	How does the enemy use misinformation to mislead us?
2	Terrain	How does deception work to compromise our view of God?
3	Training	What lie are you believing before you take the wrong step?
4	Rules of Engagement	Following Jesus changes the way we recognize deception.
5	Unit Cohesion + Mission	How do we equip others to recognize truth and stand firm?

1 John 2:15-16 (NIV) Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

DAY 1 | REMEMBER: *What Did We Learn?*

OBJECTIVE

RECONNECT

Satan doesn't attack with a massive frontal assault you can see coming. Instead, he begins with reconnaissance, testing your defenses, probing for weaknesses, and planting seeds of doubt.

Satan used this exact tactic in Genesis 3:1 with a deceptively simple question: "Did God actually say...?" Satan weaponizes what we don't know, subtly attempting to erode God's divine authority before launching an all-out offensive.

When truth shifts, everything destabilizes. Left unchecked, the world quietly replaces the Father's absolute truth with culturally acceptable desires.

TACTICS

Our enemy deceives us by leading us to question what God has said.

REFOCUS

John 14:6

Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

The enemy targets ignorance. If he can make us doubt what God has said, he can make us doubt who God is.

RESPOND

ASK YOURSELF:

- **What's the Key Truth?**

Where do you see God's authority being questioned or undermined in today's culture?

- **What did we learn?**

When have you allowed a subtle cultural question to lead you toward doubt instead of standing firm in God's truth?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Take a moment to name one popular opinion or cultural idea you've accepted recently without questioning it. Spend time today testing it against Scripture, grounding your heart and mind back in the truth of God's word.

RETURN

Father, equip me to discern the enemy's reconnaissance in my life. Forgive me for moments when I have allowed subtle cultural doubts to compromise my confidence in Your authority. Guard my heart and mind today so that I can recognize deception before it turns into disobedience. Amen.

DAY 2 | EXAMINE: *What Does This Reveal?*

TERRAIN

RECONNECT

Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your MIND. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Satan rarely denies God’s existence outright, instead he distorts God’s character. By portraying God as restrictive, controlling, or unloving, he tricks us into lowering our defenses. When our view of God is compromised, our trust collapses, obedience becomes optional, and worship becomes shallow. Guarding our heart and mind requires actively confronting false narratives with biblical truth, obeying 2 Corinthians 10:5 to "demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

REFOCUS

- **Scripture:** Psalm 119:160; John 17:17; 2 Corinthians 10:5
- **1 John 2:15–16 Connection:** Fallacies driven by the "lust of the eyes" convince us that God is withholding something good, twisting our perception of His loving heart.

Reframing our view of God starts with analyzing our thoughts and actively replacing lies about Him with the truth.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- **What does this reveal about me?**

What distorted views or false narratives about God's character have you subtly allowed into your thinking?

- **What have I misunderstood?**

Which aspect of God's nature (His sovereignty, goodness, justice, or love) do you most often struggle to trust under pressure?

ACTION STEP:

Action Step / Daily Challenge:

Conduct an honest audit of your current view of God. Write down one false assumption you've held about His nature (e.g., "*God is holding back from me*") and replace it with three specific Scriptures that state His true character.

Identify one false belief about God and replace it with the truth of Scripture.

RETURN

Lord God, examine my mind and heart today. Search out any hidden area where I have believed a lie about Your character. Correct my faulty sight where I have viewed You as restrictive rather than loving, or demanding rather than gracious. Forgive my unbelief and strengthen my faith in your plan for my life. Amen.

DAY 3 | PRACTICE: *What Needs To Change?*

EQUIPMENT

RECONNECT

Sin rarely begins as a sudden, catastrophic action. No one wakes up with the intention of destroying their life. Instead, it almost always begins from a counterfeit worldly belief. Before a wrong step is ever taken, the enemy quietly targets the core longings God placed within us such as: acceptance, security, purpose, and intimacy, by covertly introducing a lie about how those longings can be satisfied. As James 1:14–15 reveals, temptation pulls us away when our mind embraces a false premise: the belief that God's boundaries are withholding true life, or that we know better than the Creator.

The enemy's trap relies on getting us to believe a fundamental lie: that we can achieve holy, God-given desires through worldly, counterfeit means. When we internalize wrong beliefs, destructive behaviors naturally follow:

- *"My value comes from my status"* gives birth to success without integrity. (Proverbs 10:9)
- *"I am the ultimate authority of my life"* gives birth to freedom without submission. (Galatians 5:13)
- *"Immediate gratification brings fulfillment"* gives birth to intimacy without holiness. (1 Thessalonians 4:3–5)

REFOCUS

James 1:13-15

¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Sin starts in the mind. We must learn to expose and dismantle wrong belief that fuels the temptation

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- **What should change today?**
What wrong belief about success, comfort, or acceptance have you tolerated that is making you vulnerable to sin?
- **What habit has gotten in the way?**
What routine or compromise has stemmed from a belief that God's way isn't enough?

ACTION STEP:

Identify one area of repeated struggle in your life. Trace it back to the core belief behind it (e.g., "If I don't take control, nobody will"), write down the lie, and replace it with a specific Scripture that declares God's truth.

RETURN

Jesus, You know the deep, legitimate desires of my heart. I confess that I am often tempted to pursue good things apart from Your holy design. Give me the strength necessary to stand firm and not compromise or give into shortcuts that can jeopardize my testimony. Amen.

***Identify the lie behind a repeated struggle.
Replace it with God's truth***

DAY 4 | ENGAGE: *How Does This Prepare Me?*

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

RECONNECT

In a world that treats truth as a fluid opinion or a set of rigid arguments, Scripture reveals a radically different reality: ***Truth is more than something we believe, it's Someone we follow.***

When Jesus declared, 'I am the way and the truth and the life' (John 14:6), He moved truth out of the realm of abstract ideas and into a living relationship.

Winning the battle against deception isn't about winning intellectual debates, rather it's about maintaining absolute allegiance to Jesus Christ.

REFOCUS

- **Scripture:** Matthew 4:1–11; 2 Corinthians 11:3
- **1 John 2:15–16 Connection:**
The "pride of life" feeds us the lie that we don't need help. Raising your shield of faith repels self-reliance and keeps you securely anchored in Christ and connected to the body of believers.
- **Key Takeaway:**
Satan attacks by planting wrong beliefs at the root to produce sinful behavior as the fruit, winning the battle for truth requires daily aligning our hearts, minds, and habits with God's Word so we can recognize deception, stand firm in community, and equip others to do the same.

***Recognize the lie at the root.
Replace it with God's truth, and stand firm.***

RESPOND >>>>

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- **How does this affect my family?**
What recurring lie is the enemy using to create division or compromise in your home?
- **How does this affect my job & personal life?**
What false belief about status, performance, or security must you extinguish with the shield of faith today?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

The moment a lie enters your thoughts today (e.g., "I'm in this alone", "I deserve to react in anger"), speak God's truth out loud immediately to extinguish the enemy's flaming dart.

***Speak God's truth immediately
when a lie enters your mind.***

RETURN >>>>

Father, I raise the Shield of Faith against the enemy's deceptive whispers in my family, workplace, and personal thoughts. Expose the lies at the root before they can yield the fruit of sin. Because Truth is found in Jesus, I reject self-reliance, pride, and hidden compromises. Quiet the noise of this world with Your promises, and anchor my heart securely in Christ today. Amen.

DAY 5 | MULTIPLY: *Who Else Needs This?*

UNIT COHESION

RECONNECT

The ultimate goal of discipleship is multiplying believers who know how to study, interpret, and apply scripture for themselves and are able to teach others to do the same. Therefore, success isn't defined by how much they know, but by how well they can equip others to stand on their own.

Jesus didn't merely teach truth; He is Truth. Winning the battle isn't just about personal discernment or winning arguments, instead it's about equipping others to wield God's Word effectively so they can spot counterfeits and stand firm in the face of opposition.

REFOCUS

READ John 10:10

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Multiplication occurs when you equip others to recognize the enemy's tactics of spiritual warfare.

RESPOND

BATTLEFIELD ASSESSMENT (Evaluating Ideas & Worldviews)

Equip others to test every cultural message using these 7 Tactical Checks:

1. Is it Biblical?
2. Does it agree with the whole counsel of Scripture?
3. Does it reveal God's character accurately?
4. Does it make God bigger or smaller?
5. Does it lead down the narrow road?
6. If everyone believed this, what kind of world would it create?
7. Does it point people toward Christ, or toward self?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Share one key truth or discernment tool from this week's devotional with a family member, co-worker, or friend. Actively equip them to spot deceptive cultural narratives in their walk.

RETURN

Lord Jesus, You are Truth Himself. Thank You for disarming the power of deception through Your Word. Do not let me hoard the discernment You have given me. Give me courage and wisdom to step out, share these insights with others, and make disciples who stand firm in an age of deception. Multiply Your truth through my life today. Amen.