

AGES 12 - 17

Don't Take the Bait

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The devil...was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth in him...For he is a liar and the father of lies."

I. Introduction

If you've ever gone fishing, you know that you won't catch anything if all you do is throw an empty hook in the water. Fish are smarter than that. If you want to catch a fish, you have to put some kind of bait on your hook.

Satan's lies are the bait he uses to catch us. James 1:14-15 exposes the tactics Satan uses to ensnare us. "Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death."

Satan takes the things you desire and promises to fulfill those desires if you will simply reject God and ignore His Word. Instead, he convinces you that doing something just once won't really hurt anything. Or that other people are finding happiness when they reject God.

When you take the bait, you have given birth to sin. Satan's goal is to use your own sin to destroy you. (John 10:10). So the next time you are tempted to do something you know you shouldn't do, remember – there is a hook waiting for you – **DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!**

II. The Definition of Lies

A lie is "a false statement with deliberate intent to deceive; an inaccurate or false statement." Another definition is "an imposter." A lie is an imposter of the Truth. We often don't detect lies because they camouflage themselves so well.

A. Satan's Native Language is Lying

Satan speaks lies through different mouth pieces, sometimes using evil rules, false religions, movies, TV, popular songs, or even friends to deceive us. But all lies originate with him.

III. The Target of Satan's Lies

If your generation is going to win the battle Satan is waging against it, it will begin with **you** hiding His Word in your heart and being able to speak it accurately to those who are parroting Satan's lies in our culture.

It doesn't matter how you act out; every sin in our lives begins with a lie. First, we **listen** to the lie. Then we **dwell** on it. Then we begin to **believe** it, and before long we are acting on it.

IV. Don't Take the Bait

A. Lie #1 – Beautiful Girls Are Worth More

The world's standard of so-called beauty has made it hard to see your own worth. But remember, physical beauty is temporary.

Today Did you Spend More Time:

In front of the mirror, making yourself beautiful on the outside **OR**

In God's Word, developing inner beauty of heart and character?

Your outward appearance should reflect your heart. Your heart should be **pure**. That's why modesty is so important. Your heart should be **joyful**. That's why we give a big thumbs-down to the dark Goth style. Your heart should be **filled with life**. Remember, what is on the outside should be a representation of what's on the inside.

1. What You Determine About Beauty

What you determine about beauty will be determined by where you look. That's why we are going to go right to the heart of an important side issue – **teen magazines**.

B. Lie #2 – You Need a Boyfriend

The drive for male attention is a *huge* issue for many young ladies. Why? Because we are programmed to believe that we are not valuable until we have attention and acceptance from guys.

1. Read Samantha's Story (See Handout #1)

God does not want you to "*awaken love*" until the time is right

God has good reasons for instructing us not to awaken love prematurely. Being in relationships with guys early often leads to sexual sin. Also, being in a relationship with a guy six months or longer is one of the top five factors that lead to early sexual activity in teenagers. As your heart becomes entwined in a relationship, you will have a hard time sticking to your standards of purity.

C. Lie #3 – It's Really Not Sex

The comments below were written by Christian teens:

- *We're really into purity – my boyfriend and I. So, we try to speak about it at events and stuff. We tell people that they can just do what we do. Just have oral sex.*
- *He was just a friend, but before I knew it, we were sending these trashy text messages. We became sort of electronic friends with benefits, but we never had sex.*

- *Honestly, there's not one guy in my youth group who I haven't kissed or touched in some way. Some of them got further than others, but I have a line I won't cross. I've never had sex.*

Remember, anything that “*hints*” at sex outside of marriage is wrong.

- **YOU “HINT”** at sex when you wear a low-cut tank top showing off your cleavage.
- **YOU “HINT”** at sex when you text message something flirtatious to a guy-friend.
- **YOU “HINT”** at sex when you surf the Net looking at sensual images.
- **YOU “HINT”** at sex when you expose yourself to songs, television shows, and movies that use sexual humor and language.

1. It Is Just Fashion

Don't miss God's best for you. Dig into His Word and say NO to immodest fashions that “hint” at sex.

D. Lie #4 – It's Okay to Be One Person at Home and a Different Person With Others

There are teenage Christian girls who act one way at home and another way with their friends.

Although many young Christian teens say they don't want to be viewed as being hypocritical, often times they are just that – **a hypocrite!**

E. Lie #5 – Lies About Media

If you are taking in regular or significant doses of music, television, the Internet, and movies, you are being affected by them. The question is: Are you being influenced positively or negatively? The impact is usually not felt immediately – it's more like an IV in your arm that goes *drip.....drip.....drip....* gradually pumping a foreign substance into your system.

F. Lie #6 – What I Do Now Doesn't Affect The Future

The mentality pervades our culture. It says, “What you do now doesn't affect the future. However, what you choose to do now will either form habits you have to break in the future or habits that are helpful to you. Galatians 6:7 says, “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. Every action has results.

V. How to Stop Fueling the Lies

Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Believing a lie places us in bondage.

This is how the progression of lies lead to bondage:

We **LISTEN** to a lie. We get too close.



We **DWELL** on the lie. We focus on it and ponder the benefits.



We **BELIEVE** the lie. We begin to believe the lie is true.



We **ACT** on the lie. We sin.

VI. The Truth That Sets Us Free (See Handout #2)

HANDOUT #1

- Samantha's Story -

I never intended to end up here. I just wanted a boyfriend. The one I got seemed amazing to me. He said he wanted to be pure and wanted to be involved in church with me. Early on I noticed that he struggled with some things like drugs, but I was pretty certain I could help him overcome them. I just wasn't willing to let anything get in the way of having my boyfriend. Pretty soon I was pulled in too.

The next thing I knew, it was my senior year of high school and I was pregnant. I guess that's when I started to believe that it would all be OK if we just got married. We loved God. So we got married the week I graduated, with my belly nice and round. Well, that worked for about two years. Then he left. So now I am 19 years old and I have this amazing toddler and I love her, but life is just.....well, hard. I wish I could go back to my fifteen year-old self and tell myself, "You don't have to have a guy." There was no lasting happiness in it.

HANDOUT #2

Powerful Truths

- #1** – When you are having a really bad day and are tempted to feel that
God is not Good
- The truth is – Regardless of your circumstances, regardless of how you feel, God is good, and everything He has is good.
- #2** – When you feel far from God and are tempted to feel that He doesn't
love you
- The truth is – There is absolutely nothing we can do to earn or deserve His love. If we believe God's love is real and receive it, it will transform our lives.
- #3** – When you feel ugly or fat
- The truth is – God considers you His masterpiece. He crafted you just as you are with *precision* and *purpose*.
- #4** – When you feel you need "things" and are consumed by your desires
- The truth is – **God is enough** (Psalm 23:1). If we have Him, we have everything we need.
- #5** – When you feel like something has happened that will ruin your life
forever
- The truth is – If we belong to Christ, He is holding our lives, and nothing can touch us that has not first been "filtered through His fingers of love." But, if we embrace those challenges as being from His hand, He will use them to draw us closer to Himself and to make us more like Him.
- #6** – When you feel like you can't handle a problem you are facing
- The truth is – You will never face a problem that is too big for His grace to handle. When we are weak, He is strong. When we are empty, He is full. No matter what you are going through right now, His grace is enough.

Powerful Truths

#7 – When you feel like you will never be able to overcome a sinful habit

- The truth is – Though the death of Jesus Christ and our relationship with Him we have been set free from the power of sin. When you do sin, it's not because you couldn't help it, but because you chose to yield to your old master. You do not **have** to sin, and every sinful pattern in our lives can be overcome by the power of Christ living in us (Romans 6:14).

#8 – When you feel like your potential is limited by your past

- The truth is –Your past does not have to control your future.

#9 – When you want to blame others for your responses

- The truth is – You are responsible before God for your behavior, responses and choices.

#10 – When you feel like giving up on the church

- The truth is – You need the church. The church matters to God and it should always matter to us. Jesus loves the church and died for it.

#11 – When you are tempted to sacrifice holiness for immediate fulfillment

- The truth is – God did not save us to make us happy in the immediate sense – He saved us to "redeem us from wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good." The Lord Jesus Christ did not come down to earth and die so we could live for ourselves and our own pleasure, but so we could be free to live a life that pleases Him.

#12 – When you want things to go your way

- **Remember - It's not about you; it's all about Him.** The world was not created to revolve around us. The entire universe was created to revolve around Christ. If our goal in life is to be happy or accepted or loved, then anything that threatens our well-being will be an enemy – an obstacle to fulfilling our objective.

Embrace these Truths and hide them in your heart.