IT’S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THIS WAY

bible study companion

Know the Truth. Live the Truth.
It changes everything.
Hey, there!

Welcome to the It’s Not Supposed to Be This Way Bible Study Companion. This Bible Study Companion was written and crafted with you in mind. We’re just a couple of girls who love God’s Word and want to help guide you into a deeper study.

For the next six weeks, Wendy Blight and Sarah Travis will take you through ideas, topics and Scripture you have read in It’s Not Supposed to Be This Way by Lysa TerKeurst. Their heart is to help you know the Truth and live the Truth because they have seen how it changes everything. Their passion for teaching comes through in every lesson they write, and I couldn’t be more excited for you to learn from them.

Before we begin, we have a few tips to make this Bible Study Companion work for you.

1. Look at your calendar – When do you have some time to dedicate to digging into the ideas discussed in this companion? Mark it down.
2. Find a designated space – Knowing where you’ll study helps set you up for success. Is it your kitchen table? Your favorite local coffee shop? Or maybe at your desk at work? You can take it anywhere, so you decide.
4. Start with prayer – We prayed over the lessons that would be chosen for this companion. We suggest starting by preparing your heart with prayer.

We are excited to see the revelations God has in store for you specifically and can’t wait to join you on this journey. So, without further ado, let’s see what Week 1 has in store for us.

Take it away, Wendy!

Kendra
P31 OBS Manager
Hi, friend! Today begins the first lesson on our Bible Study Companion journey, and I couldn’t be more honored and excited to kick things off. In today’s lesson, we’ll delve deeper into the devil, the one Scripture identifies as the “enemy” of our soul. I know, it sounds a bit intimidating to dive into this topic on Week 1, but we think it’s important to fully know and understand our enemy to fully appreciate the hope and redemption found in Jesus.

In Going to the Well from Chapter 1 of It’s Not Supposed to Be This Way, Lysa warns us, “if the enemy can isolate us, he can influence us” (p. 17).

Scripture clearly teaches we have an enemy. His name is Satan. But, what we may not know as confidently is Satan’s origin.

**Question for today:** How does such an evil being like Satan come to exist in a world created by a good and loving God?

The Bible never explicitly tells us the origin of Satan (or the serpent). But, by mining the Scriptures, we can discover key insights into both.

Creation opens with six days of God declaring breathtaking creations into being. On the last day, God pronounced all He formed and created as “very good” (Genesis 1:31).

Enter stage left, scene three a talking snake. A serpent. Scripture describes him as “more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord has made.”

**Take it a bit deeper:**
Spend a few minutes reading the creation story in Genesis 1:1-31.
Let's look first at the serpent.

**From where did the serpent come?**

Read Genesis 3:1.

**Who created the serpent?**


**How does this good creature, created by a good God, come to tempt Adam and Eve?**

We learned in Genesis 1:31 that on the sixth day of creation, God declared all that He made “very good.” So, how does this serpent that God created as good engage in such evil? The Bible doesn’t clearly address this question. But, in the following passages, we gain insight into how a creature God created good can come to be an instrument of evil.

What do you learn in these passages about how Satan works evil in and through the lives of God’s created beings?
By implication, we can infer that Satan inhabited the body of the serpent and used him as an instrument to tempt Adam and Eve and lead them into rebellion against God.

Next, let’s examine Satan.

Who created Satan?


Read Colossians 1:15-17.

In whom were all things created?


In this passage, what does “all things” include?


How did God create Satan?
Read 1 John 1:5 and James 1:13.
What do we learn about God?

In studying the serpent, we concluded all of God’s creation was good, including the serpent, because God declared it so. So, according to the verses and passages we’ve studied, we can again infer the angelic creation, including Satan, was created good.

Billy Graham writes in his book *Angels* that Satan fell before he tempted Adam and Eve and “was the agent and bears the greater guilt because there was no one to tempt him when he sinned; on the other hand Adam and Eve were faced with a tempter.”

What caused Satan to fall?

Though we don’t know the clear answer to this question, we can look to passages in Ezekiel and Isaiah for insight.

God created angelic beings for the purpose of glorifying God, to praise and serve Him for all eternity. In Scripture, we encounter an angel named Lucifer, the most brilliant and beautiful of God’s created beings in heaven.

Although the Ezekiel passage describes the king of Tyre, the imagery of creation here causes some scholars and theologians to interpret this passage as a reference to Satan’s pride, fall and curse. They see the King of Tyre as an earthly illustration of the heavenly Lucifer who became the devil.

Scholars similarly understand Isaiah 14:12-14 to be a description of Satan’s fall from heaven.


John does the same in Revelation 12:7-9: “Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon
was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him” (NIV).

We can glean from these passages that Satan had no interest in glorifying and serving God. He had one goal in mind—to hijack God’s position and power. He wanted ultimate authority over heaven and earth.

Listen to the words in Isaiah 14:13-14:

“I will ascend to the heavens;
“I will raise my throne above the stars of God;
“I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.
“I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
    I will make myself like the Most High” (NIV).

Satan set his sights on dethroning the Lord Most High. He wanted to be the Commander of Heaven’s Armies. To rule the universe. To be served, not serve. To be worshipped, not worship.

Satan’s desire for power was rooted in the sin of covetousness. He wanted what wasn’t his to have. He lusted after what belonged to God and God alone.

What happened when Satan fell?
Read 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6.

What does Satan’s rebellion and fall mean for us today?

It means we have an enemy of our soul who is relentless, and until Satan and his demonic angels are thrown into the everlasting fire, they constitute a mighty force committed to battling against us.
Scripture ascribes many names to Satan. Choose three or more verses below to gain more insight into Satan’s cruel and crafty character.

Matt. 4:3
Matt. 12:24
Matt. 13:19
John 8:44
John 12:31
2 Cor. 4:4
Eph. 2:1-2
Rev. 12:10
But, don’t leave this lesson fearful or discouraged, because Scripture proclaims good news ... no ... great news. We do not fight this battle alone!

Read 1 John 3:8. Write it below.

How does this verse encourage you in your current battle?

As we close today, tuck the truths below deep in your heart.

Know. Believe. Claim. Pray and walk confidently in them every day.


Thank You, Jesus, that You have disarmed the powers and authorities of Satan. You have made a public spectacle of them. You have triumphed over them by Your blood and the power of the cross.
Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Pray this prayer.

Father, help me to be strong in You and in Your power. Today, I put on Your armor so I can stand against the devil’s schemes. I know my struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. I put on the full armor of God so that I can stand my ground. Stand firm with the belt of truth buckled around my waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, with my feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. I take up the shield of faith to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. I take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Help me to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

Read Romans 8:37-38. Pray this prayer.

Thank You, Father, that in ALL things, I am MORE than a conqueror in Christ Jesus who loves me and died for me! Thank You that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither present nor future, nor powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate me from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus my Lord.

And all God’s girls said, Amen!