

**FRESH**

**OUTLOOK**  
BIBLE STUDIES

**THE DEVIL  
YOU SAY**

SAMPLE



**THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK**

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# Session 1

## The Satan in Popular Culture

### Leader prep:

Read "[Who is Satan?](#)"

Watch "[The Origins of Satan](#)"; "[Church Lady – Santa](#)"; "[The Devil Went Down to Georgia](#)"; "[Bedazzled – I'm the Devil!](#)"; "[O Brother, Where Art Thou?](#)" Movie Clip

### Supplies:

Nametags, pens  
Candle, lighter  
Bibles or Bible apps  
Newsprint, markers  
Media clips, equipment  
Painter's tape

nametags  
pens

### 1. Welcome

Ask everyone to make a name tag and add an adjective to their first name that 1) describes their personality and 2) starts with the same letter.

### 2. Icebreaker questions

Invite everyone to mingle, getting to know each other's names and adjectives.

Invite everyone to pair up with another person wearing a similar color. Encourage pairs to name their ideas and questions about the devil and expectations for this study.

After sufficient time, gather the group. Ask everyone to introduce their partners to the group.

*Talking point: The devil (Satan) is considered by many to be the personification of evil and the archenemy of God. His name, image and story have evolved over the years. The devil is also known as Beelzebub, Lucifer and Mephistopheles. Various depictions include a red suit or red skin, horns and cloven hooves. We'll examine this evil being and decide whether the devil is someone to be feared at all.*

*candle  
lighter  
Bible or Bible app*

### 3. Reflect on the devil

Light a candle to help collect thoughts and calm your mind. Pray, "Holy Spirit, let us hear from you." Sit quietly for a moment.

Read aloud [Job 1:6, 7](#). Ask the group to listen carefully for words or phrases that jump out. Wait patiently for God's Spirit to give gentle guidance. Allow for silence.

Reread Job 1:6, 7. Ask the group to reflect on what the Spirit is saying to them. Allow for silence.

Reread Job 1:6, 7. Ask the group to tell the Spirit what is on their hearts. Allow for silence.

Reread Job 1:6, 7. Ask the group to sit quietly and allow God to speak.

Conclude with a gentle, "Thank you, God."

*media clips  
media equipment  
newsprint  
marker*

### 4. The devil in popular culture

Watch one or more media clips:

["Church Lady – Santa"](#)  
["The Devil Went Down to Georgia"](#)  
["Bedazzled – I'm the Devil!"](#)  
["O Brother, Where Art Thou?" Movie CLIP](#)

Have everyone name the devil's attributes based on the clips. List responses on newsprint sheet #1.

Discuss:

- Based on the media clips, who is the devil?
- What does the devil do? What are the devil's powers?

*painter's tape*

### 5. The devil in popular belief

Mark a continuum on the floor.

Designate one end of the continuum "agree," the opposite, "disagree," and the middle, "I don't know."

Ask everyone to respond to the statements by standing on the line. Compare the group's collective responses to the 2013 YouGov poll of U.S. adults:

**I believe...**

**in the existence of the devil. (57% yes; 28% no; 15% IDK)**  
**that the devil can possess a person. (51% yes; 28% no; 20% IDK)**  
**in the power of exorcism. (46% yes; 19% no; 36% IDK)**

Discuss:

- What is your reaction to the results of the survey? Of our group?
- What is helpful/harmful about believing in a devil who is God's archenemy?
- What is helpful/harmful about believing in a devil who is out to get us?

Bibles or Bible apps  
newsprint  
marker

## 6. Discover the devil

*Talking point: The Hebrew word “the satan” means “the adversary” or “opponent.” So, in Job, Satan (the satan) is a prosecuting attorney in the heavenly court, not an enemy or opponent of God.*

Ask a volunteer(s) to read [Job 1:6-2:7](#).

Ask the group to name Satan’s role, characteristics, powers and limitations based on Job 1:6–2:7. Record responses on newsprint sheet #2.

Compare newsprint sheets #1 and 2. Name similarities and differences between the two. Wonder how we might account for these similarities and differences.

Ask volunteers to roleplay Job 1:6–2:7 as a courtroom drama. Encourage actors to bring some “Law and Order” vibes to their roleplay.

Discuss:

- How do you feel about Satan being depicted as the prosecuting attorney of God’s divine council?
- What do you think happened to convert God’s prosecuting attorney into the entity of spiritual evil for many people?

## 7. Looking ahead and prayer

Ask everyone to watch [“Creating Satan: From Prosecutor to Prime Evil”](#) before the next session. Send the link to everyone’s smartphone or email.

Save newsprint sheets for the next session.

Ask interested volunteers to help you plan and lead the next session.

Invite personal prayers for the day’s blessings. Close with the Lord’s Prayer or the following Irish blessing:

**May your glass be ever full.**

**May the roof over your head be always strong.**

**And may you be in heaven half an hour**

**Before the devil knows you’re dead.**