



LESSON

IS SATAN REAL?

06

TODAY'S

BIBLE BASE

Bold Bible Truth

GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL.

(1 Chronicles 29:11)

“He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

(John 8:44)

- **Who is Satan?**

Luke 10:17-18; Isaiah 14:12-14; John 8:44

- **Satan in action.**

Genesis 3:1-5; Matthew 4:3-10

- **Resist Satan.**

Psalms 119:105; James 4:7

Create a Bold Classroom Environment

Be respectful when your preteens ask questions. Never ignore a question or pass it off as unimportant. Remember, it can take a lot of courage for a preteen to appear vulnerable before peers to even ask the question. If the question is off-topic and will derail the lesson, assure the preteen that you'd love to explore the question together later.

Pray for Your Preteens

Talking about Satan may bring out some fear-based feelings in your preteens. This week pray that your kids will rely on God's power in their lives, and that he'll help them have peace and joy in this troubled world.

God Is All-Powerful!

Just for Teachers

Your preteens are aware of evil. All they have to do is watch the news. Or participate in an active-shooter drill at school. Today's session can help temper the fear that comes with knowing that evil exists. Being aware of Satan and his tactics can help kids avoid evil when possible and face it with God's help when necessary. Use this lesson to assure your preteens that they can rely on God's victorious power in their lives.



THIS LESSON AT A GLANCE

Section	What Preteens Do	Supplies	Easy Prep
Begin Boldly (about 5 minutes)	Enjoy a snack, review BE BOLD Values, and add questions to the whiteboard/poster board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BE BOLD Values poster • snacks • hidden pictures and Where's Waldo? books • whiteboard or poster board • markers 	
Question of the Week (about 20 minutes)	Dig into Scripture to discover that Satan is a liar who wants to tempt people away from God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles • Bold Action Student Books • poster board • markers • paper • pencils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tear out pages 33-36 from Bold Action Student Books.
Game (about 10 minutes)	Play Hot or Cold? while receiving conflicting hints.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • item to hide 	
Bold Action (about 15 minutes)	Create Luminary Lanterns and use them in prayer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bold Action Student Books • scissors • transparent tape • small paper plates • battery-operated tea lights (available at your local dollar discount store) 	
Bold Blessing (about 10 minutes)	Receive a prayer blessing and a Mystery Mission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mystery Mission Cards • Mystery Mission Stickers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fold and seal a Mystery Mission Card for each preteen using 3 stickers.



BEGIN BOLDLY (ABOUT 5 MINUTES)

Arrival Activity

Greet preteens warmly as they arrive. Have healthy snack stuff on a table.

Invite preteens to look at the hidden picture pages and Where's Waldo? books you've supplied and encourage them to work together to see how many hidden pictures or Waldos they can find.

As you're ready to move on, move the snacks and pictures out of sight.

Welcome Kids

This week ask a willing reader to read aloud the BE BOLD Values from the BE BOLD Values poster:

You're accepted just as you are.

We respect each other's thoughts and struggles.

We're all in this together.

God is here, ready to be your friend because you matter!

Say: **I'm glad you're here, and I'm glad we get to follow these values together. I want our class to be a place of respect—a place to honestly say what we think and feel, and a place where we can learn from each other. Thank you for making it that way!**

Question Collection

Say: **You know, I was watching, and you were pretty good at finding those hidden pictures! Just as in the hidden pictures, sometimes a thing can be right there in plain sight, but we don't see it at first. Today we're going to explore a topic that might seem sort of hidden—people don't talk about it a lot. We'll be talking about Satan. And I'm sure you must have questions about Satan, just like I do.**

One of my questions is...

Briefly write a question about Satan on the whiteboard.

Say: **Now it's your turn. What are *your* questions about Satan? Tell me and I'll write them, or feel free to come up and write your question yourself.**

Gather kids' questions on the board. Be sure to have enough markers so preteens can write their own questions.

Say: **Thanks for sharing your questions. I'm glad we're all in this together! Today let's look at one question in particular: Is Satan real? And if he is, what does that mean for us?**

Discuss Satan

Say: **I think we can all agree that the subject of Satan is kind of creepy and maybe even a little scary. But I want to tell you something upfront—and this is important, so please listen—**GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL. More powerful than anything else. *Anything* else! And God is on our side. So we don't have to be afraid of Satan. But we do need to be aware, because, like our hidden pictures, things aren't always what they seem.****

I think the best thing to do is turn to our ultimate source of truth—God's Word! Good idea? Let's see what the Bible has to say about Satan!



PRETEEN POINTER

Preteens are notoriously insecure and uncertain, no matter how hard they try to hide it. Providing a simple activity that harks back to an earlier time in their development, such as finding hidden pictures, offers preteens an almost surefire way to succeed and fit in—and have fun doing it! Throw in a little sincere praise and encouragement, and you've created a congenial atmosphere where learning can happen naturally.

TIP

A fraction of Christians don't believe that Satan is real—they believe that Satan is just a symbol of evil. However, in this lesson we'll be taking the stance that Satan is real and active in our world.


IS SATAN
REAL?

 **QUESTION OF THE WEEK** (ABOUT 20 MINUTES)

Who Is Satan?

Have preteens form trios. Distribute pages 33-34 from the Bold Action Student Books to each person.

Say: **In your trio, you'll be reading a few passages that will give us clues about who Satan is.**

Let me give you a little background for the first passage. Jesus had sent out his disciples to teach people about God. Let's see what they said when they reported back to Jesus. Choose someone in your trio to read aloud passage 1. Allow time.

 **What clues does this passage give us about Satan?** Let kids call out answers.

Say: **Well, from this passage we learned that Satan used to be in heaven, because Jesus saw him fall from heaven. And we saw that Jesus' name is more powerful than demons.**

Let's see what other clues we can find. Have another person in your group read aloud passage 2. This verse doesn't mention Satan by name, but refers to him by nicknames, including "shining star" and "son of the morning." Allow time.

 **What more can we learn about Satan from this passage?** Let kids call out answers.

Say: **Again, we see that Satan was thrown down from heaven. But *this* time we find out why! Satan tried to set himself up as higher than God. He didn't want to worship God—he wanted to *be* God! But **GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL**, and he wasn't about to put up with Satan. When Satan tried to place himself higher than God, he was thrown out of heaven.**

Let's look at one more passage. Have the next person in your group read aloud passage 3. Allow time.

 **What do you take away from this passage?** Let kids call out answers.

Say: **Yup, Satan is a liar. In fact, he's the father of lies! That's how he operates. Let's see how he gets away with all those lies.**

Satan in Action

Say: **Satan wants to turn us away from God. And he often tries to do it with the same old lie that got him in trouble in the first place. But how does he get people to fall for his lies? Let's find out!**

Form groups of four. Give each group a sheet of poster board, marker, paper, and pencils. Assign each group either passage 4 or 5. (It's okay if more than one group has the same passage.)

Say: In a minute, someone in your group will read aloud a passage from the “Satan in Action” section of the student page. Follow along with the reader, and think about what lie Satan used. Then work together to come up with an ad that Satan might use to sell that lie. You can use the poster board to make a billboard that sells the lie. Or you can use the paper and pencils to write a script for a radio ad that sells the lie.

For example, let’s pretend the lie is that you can fly. Your ad might say something like “Tired of being stuck on the ground? Don’t settle for less! Just fly! It’s easy! It’s free! And you deserve it!”

Get the idea? Be sure everyone in your group contributes, and work quickly—you’ll only have a couple of minutes to create your ad. Ready? Read your passage!

Give groups a few minutes to create their ads, giving a one-minute warning to wrap things up. Then let each group present its ad to the large group.

Discuss Satan’s Tricks

- ❓ What was it like creating an ad for the lies Satan used?
- ❓ Why do you think people believe Satan’s lies?

Say: Satan is a liar—a very sneaky liar. He makes doing wrong things sound so innocent, so easy. He can even make doing wrong sound right! I encourage you to take your student page home and read the passage your group didn’t use for your ad. Both passages give insight into how sneaky Satan can be.

But there are ways to keep from being tricked by Satan.

When Satan tried to trick Jesus, Jesus used Scripture to stay true to God. We can do the same thing. **GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL**, and we can use his Word to stand up to Satan.

But we do have to be on guard. Satan can make his temptations sound reasonable and good. Let’s play a game that can help explain what I mean. In this game, listen for who’s telling you the truth or leading you off course.

GAME (ABOUT 10 MINUTES)

Hot or Cold?

Say: Let’s play a game of Hot or Cold? Remember that game? One person is “It” and closes his or her eyes. Then It tries to find an object by listening to everyone else yell hot or cold. “Hot” means It is getting closer to the object, and “cold” means the opposite.

So first, I need a volunteer to be It. Choose a volunteer to be It. Have It stand in a corner of the room, facing the walls. Have It close his or her eyes. Silently hold up or point to an object in the room that you’ll hide and It will attempt to find.

Have everyone else huddle around you at the other end of the room as you whisper the following instructions. Say that half of your preteens will play the game in the regular way, with “hot” meaning that It is getting closer to the object, and “cold” meaning It is getting farther away. The rest of the kids will play as if “hot” means It is getting farther away from the object, and “cold” means It is getting closer. Make sure kids know which half they’re in.

When everyone understands the instructions, have kids spread out around the room, mixing up players. Have It turn around, open eyes, and begin play.

Encourage players to call out hints to It loudly and often. Call time after about two minutes or if It correctly guesses the object. Play a few more rounds, choosing a new It and object each round. Then invite your preteens to sit.

- ❓ **If you were It, what was it like to hear so many conflicting hints?**
- ❓ **If you weren’t It, what was it like calling out conflicting hints?**
- ❓ **When is a time you received conflicting advice in a situation? How did you decide what to do?** Have kids talk in pairs or trios.

Say: **It’s not always easy to know what to do in real life, especially when you’re not sure who to trust. One thing I’ve learned is that you can always trust God because **GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL**. And you can always trust God’s Word. Listen to how the Bible describes God’s Word: “Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”**

I love that. God’s Word can light our way and keep us close to him. Satan prefers darkness and lies. But we can stay in God’s love and light. Let’s make something to remind us of that.



BOLD ACTION (ABOUT 15 MINUTES)

Make Luminary Lanterns

Say: **We’re going to make Luminary Lanterns. *Luminary* is just a fancy word for light. Our Luminary Lanterns can remind us that **GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL—way more powerful than the darkness of Satan!** Then we’ll use our lanterns to pray for God to shine his light and help us resist Satan. Let’s get started!**

Distribute page 35 from the Bold Action Student Books to each person. Encourage preteens to cut out the large rectangle with zigzag lines inside. Then they can follow the printed instructions on the remainder of the page to make the Luminary Lanterns.

When everyone has finished, give each person a small paper plate and a battery-powered tea light. Demonstrate how to place the battery-powered tea light on the plate, place the lantern over the light, and tape it to the plate on one side so it functions like a hinge. (Kids will simply tip the lantern when it’s time to turn off the light.)

Say: **These Luminary Lanterns can remind us that even though Satan lies and tries to turn us away from God, God's Word can light our way and help us resist Satan.**

Let's use our lanterns as we pray!

Use Lanterns to Pray

If you have time, lead preteens in a brief walk around the halls of your church. Periodically stop and pray for the people in your church, asking God to shine his light in their lives and help them resist Satan.

If you don't have time for a walk, have preteens stand in a circle with their lit lanterns. Turn out the lights as you lead them in prayer. Ask God to shine the light of his Word in kids' lives. Ask him to help each person resist Satan and his lies.

When you return to your room, say that preteens can take their Luminary Lanterns home, but caution them never to use the lanterns with a real flame.

Say: **Your Luminary Lantern can remind you that God's light in your life and the powerful name of Jesus can help you stand up to Satan. Remember, God is on your side, and GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL! I want to leave you with one more verse from the Bible. Listen as I read James 4:7: "So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."**

Got that? Satan can't stand up to God. No way! So turn to God, and Satan will flee. He has to—the Bible says so! Never forget, God loves you and GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL!



TIP

Make sure that all your preteens hear your caution about never using the Luminary Lanterns with a real flame!



BOLD BLESSING (ABOUT 10 MINUTES)

Pray

Say: **Today we discovered that GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL. Satan will lie and try to tempt us away from God. But God is so much more powerful than Satan! God will always help you stand up to Satan. Next week we'll look at some specific ways to resist Satan.**

But right now, hold your Luminary Lantern in front of you as we thank God for who he is.

Pause.

Pray: **God, thank you for your power and your light. Thank you for giving us your Word. Thank you for showing us who Satan really is. And thank you for giving us ways to stand up to him. Thank you for always, always loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Send-Off Cheer

Have kids stand in a circle with their hands in the center, like a sports team. Tell them that when you finish the Bold Blessing, they'll raise their hands and shout "Let's be bold!"



PRETEEN POINTER

Even if some preteens don't come every week, assure them that putting their faith into action at any time is a good thing.



Say this Bold Blessing: **Receive this Bold Blessing and carry it with you this week: May you be bold as you resist Satan's lies. Stand firm in your faith. Use God's Word. And shine God's light in the world around you. Let's be bold!**

Mystery Mission Reports

Say: **We're about to receive some top-secret Mystery Missions. But before you get your new mission, I'd love to hear how it went when you did your last Mystery Mission. First let me tell you what happened on mine.**

My last Mystery Mission was...

Share a brief story of how *you* followed through with your bold mission and then ask kids to partner up and share with one another.

Say: **Thanks for sharing your stories.**

I want to encourage you to actually do those Mystery Missions, and here's why: They're not homework. They're fun ways to stay closer to God.

Mystery Mission

Say: **This week, remember that GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL. He's so much more powerful than Satan. God loves you and is on your side. He'll always help you stand against Satan.**

Open your Mystery Mission tonight.

We'll talk about what happened the next time we get together.

Distribute a Mystery Mission Card to each preteen. Take your own card home and complete the challenge, too!