



DO NOT BE DECEIVED



Connect Group Notes

FOR THE FACILITATOR

Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end.

TOPIC : Do not be deceived

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MEDITATION TIME:

(NOTE TO FACILITATORS: The first part of the notes is practical meditation on the passages of scripture using the basic questions below to guide you. You may find that this exercise takes

up all the time and you don't get to the rest of the questions and notes - that's ok. The real goal is to get people practicing chewing on scripture together)

**Take time to read the passages below
(suggest you read one verse each in a circle)
and then meditate on them as a group using
the questions below to guide you:**

Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’? ”

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the

*middle of the garden, and you must not touch it,
or you will die.’”*

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

MEDITATION QUESTIONS:

- What verse or phrase stood out to you the most (your underline or highlight moment)
- What does that highlight mean to you - what do you think the Holy Spirit is saying?
- Why do you think the Holy Spirit is highlighting this verse to you at this time in your life?

GOING DEEPER:

Question 1: Have you allowed yourself to be deceived in a certain area?

The enemy has a strategy to keep us from walking with God.

Deception - is the act of being misled. The manipulation of facts. Gaslighting. Bringing doubt into situations.

The enemy does this by using our own desires against us. He wants us to indulge in the desires of the flesh, so that we are distracted from pursuing God's purposes for our lives.

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough.

Ephesians 6:11

Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

The enemy's scheme or long term strategy is to separate us from God.

Areas the enemy wants to deceive us:

- Through money and the way we utilise our finances.

- Through relationships - Satan always wants to wreck relationships or make them ungodly.
- Through attacking our identities and undermining who we are in Christ. Distracting us from God's purpose for our lives.
- Through turning Christianity into following a set of rules or checklists, as opposed to pursuing a relationship with God.

The enemy is happy to take us subtly off course now so that if we keep walking that path we end up far from God's will for our lives.

James 1:14-15

but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Satan also tempts us through the unmet expectations in our lives. The desires of our hearts that are not God's desires for our lives.

Question 2: Who is the King of your heart?

We give into deception when we don't know the truth.

Matthew 22:29

Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.

Question 3: How well do you know the life giving, life changing Word of God?

The Truth will set you free. We fight deception with truth.

Romans 6:4-7

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Jesus is the truth - hold onto Jesus and you will walk in freedom.

ACTION STEP

To fight the enemy's scheme we need to spend time looking at our lives and identifying areas where we may be open to the attack of the enemy.

- What are you lacking?
- Where might the enemy be deceiving you?
- What area of your life do you need to bring into the light?
- Where is Jesus not the King of your heart?
- How well do you know the truth - the Word of God?

Let's spend time this week closing doors to the enemy, making Jesus King of our hearts and spending time with Him so that He becomes the desire of our hearts.