



# IN THE BEGINNING...

## Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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JANUARY 7, 2018

**1. PRIMARY STATEMENT:** When Satan brings temptation, it's not obvious - it's sneaky. He uses things that seem good, things which have a ring of truth to them, to get us off of God's game plan.



## 2. BIBLE VERSE

### Genesis 3:1 [ESV]

*"Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'"*

Satan didn't use a full-on attack - that would have been easy to spot. He didn't even start by contradicting God. Instead, he created doubt in Eve's mind. Those same tactics he used in the garden are just as effective today. Your crafty enemy will tempt you by creating doubt.

Q. Have you ever wrestled with doubts about who God is or what He wants? If so, how did you resolve them?

Q. When Eve had doubts, she trusted the serpent's interpretation. What should she have done instead? How does that relate to topics which are debated in today's culture?

## 3. DISCUSSION

### Genesis 3:8-10 [ESV]

*"And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?' 10 And he said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.'"*

God put two things into place to help keep Adam and Eve from falling - His Word, and His fellowship. The best way to resist temptation is to lean into those supports. Stay connected to God through prayer and worship. Study the Bible and incorporate it into your life.

Q. Where do you need growth the most right now - Prayer, Worship or Bible Study?



## 4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for making a way for you to come near Him again, and for giving you access to His Word. Ask Him to strengthen you so you won't fall for the sneaky temptations that Satan brings.



# “ANTS”



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### 1. POWER VERSE: 1 Corinthians 3:9 “We work together as partners who belong to God.”

#### Watts Up: “You & Me, We Agree, We Will Work In Unity!”

This week, we continue the series called, “Bugs”. In this lesson, we learn how to work together as partners who belong to God!

### 2. BIBLE VERSE:

#### Exodus 17

2 So they argued with Moses. They said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses replied, “Why are you arguing with me? Why are you testing the Lord?” 3 But the people were thirsty for water there. So they told Moses they weren’t happy with him. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt? Did you want us, our children and our livestock to die of thirst?” 4 Then Moses cried out to the Lord. He said, “What am I going to do with these people? They are almost ready to kill me by throwing stones at me.” 5 The Lord answered Moses. “Go out in front of the people...Go. 6 I will stand there in front of you by the rock at Mount Horeb. Hit the rock. Then water will come out of it for the people to drink.” ...They also tested the Lord. They asked, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

#### Joshua Wins the Battle Over the Amalekites

8 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 10 So Joshua fought against the Amalekites, just as Moses had ordered. Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hand, the Israelites were winning. But every time he lowered his hands, the Amalekites began to win. 12 ...Aaron and Hur held up his hands. Aaron was on one side, and Hur was on the other. Moses’ hands remained steady until sunset. 13 So Joshua destroyed the Amalekite army with

swords. 14 Then the Lord said to Moses, “This is something to be remembered. So write it on a scroll. Make sure Joshua knows you have done it. I will completely erase the memory of the Amalekites from the earth.” 15 Then Moses built an altar. He called it The Lord Is My Banner.”



### 3. DISCUSSION:

- Q. Who was Moses praying for?
- Q. What happened when Moses would lower his arms?
- Q. When Moses was tired, who helped him to keep his hands up?

Throughout the church’s history, Christians have struggled to work together in unity. Individuals have strong feelings on how we should go about accomplishing God’s work. Many times, those feelings and ideas differ from one another.

Too often, Christians begin to fight against one another rather than work together in unity. Nothing causes more damage to the Kingdom of God than when the people of God begin to hurt and destroy each other.



### 4. PRAYER FOCUS

God wants His people to work together in unity. We won’t always agree, but when we disagree we should do so in love, trying to compromise with one another. Have you ever gotten in a fight with someone at church? How can we be better at working together with other Christians? Pray with your child that they will stay away from fighting other Christians and work together. Pray that God would help you to work together as a family to accomplish the BIG task of reaching the world for Jesus.