



IN THE BEGINNING...PART 4

Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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JANUARY 28, 2018

1. PRIMARY STATEMENT: God is a promise-making master; both in promises to all of humanity, and to us as individuals. From a human perspective, though, it's all too easy to grow impatient waiting for promises to come true, and when we lose patience, we have a tendency to take matters into our own hands... with unpleasant results.

2. BIBLE VERSE

Genesis 16:2a [ESV]

"Sarai said to Abram, 'Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children...'"



It had been 10 years since God had promised descendants to Abram, but he was still childless. It was at that point that doubt in God's promise finally outweighed faith.

Q. What are some promises / dreams / plans that you feel like God has spoken to you? Have they come to pass yet? If not, can you relate to Sarai's impatience and frustration with God?

Q. Why do you think God spoke the promise to Abram so long before the fulfillment? Could it be that He has a purpose for putting hopes & dreams in your heart that are still down the line?

3. DISCUSSION

Genesis 16:2b [ESV]

"...Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her."

Just like in the garden of Eden, Satan brings temptation by casting doubt on God's word. Sarai adopts an interpretation of God's promise that can be fulfilled by human strength, without any additional waiting or faith. The result was perpetual hostility that is still active today between the descendants of Isaac (Israel) and Ishmael (Islam).

Q. Be honest - which of God's promises (to humanity or to you personally) are you tempted to doubt or reinterpret?

Q. Is the sin to have doubts, or to act on them?

Q. Satan often offers a "shortcut" to promises or blessing, by cutting corners morally. Can you think of a few examples of this in today's culture?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for all the promises He has made to humanity, and to you personally. Ask Him to give you faith to trust Him and wait for Him to bring them to pass in His timing.



“SPIDER”

Family Devotional/Overflow Kids Discussion Guide

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JANUARY 28, 2018

1. POWER VERSE: James 4:7 *“Resist the devil, and he will flee from you!”*

Watts Up: “I’ll Avoid The WEB Of Temptation!”

This week, we continue the series called, “Bugs”. In this lesson, we learn just how God has given us the ability to avoid being trapped in the web that Satan has laid out for us.

2. BIBLE VERSE:

Read: Matthew 4:1-11

Q. Where was Jesus when Satan came to tempt Him?

Q. What were the ways that Satan tempted Jesus?



Spiders weave webs to trap their prey. They lie in wait for an unsuspecting insect to fly or crawl into the web and get stuck. Then, the spider moves in for the kill.

Satan, our enemy, does much the same with us. He weaves a web of temptation in order to trap us into sin. Much of the time, if we are not careful and looking out for it, we will get caught in the web of temptation and fall into sin.

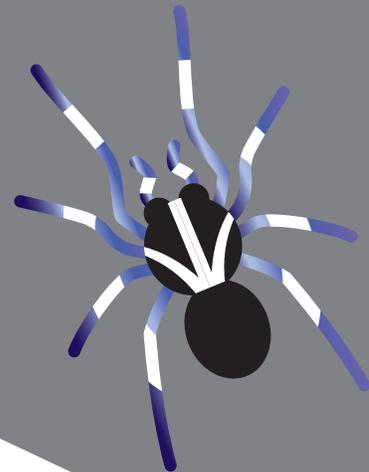
3. DISCUSSION:

Satan is very crafty in his ways of trapping us. We must be aware of his schemes in order to avoid getting caught in the web of temptation.

Q. How has Satan tried to tempt you?

Q. Have there been times you gave-in to temptation?

Q. How can you try to avoid temptation?



4. PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for your children to be strong and resist the devil’s web of temptation. Pray for them if they have fallen into sin already and lead them in a prayer for forgiveness. Pray that God will help them to recognize where they are weak and help them to stay strong in those areas.