

SATAN & CO.



1. Write down the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word **Satan**.
2. How much **truth** do you think there is in movies and TV shows that depict Satan and demons?
3. Rate the following activities on a scale of 1 (Satan has little involvement in it) to 14 (Satan is very involved in it).

<input type="checkbox"/> Dating	<input type="checkbox"/> The Internet
<input type="checkbox"/> Movies	<input type="checkbox"/> Violent or vulgar music
<input type="checkbox"/> A Christian's daily life	<input type="checkbox"/> Astrology
<input type="checkbox"/> Drug use	<input type="checkbox"/> Fashion
<input type="checkbox"/> Halloween	<input type="checkbox"/> Homosexuality
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministry and the church	<input type="checkbox"/> Wicca or New Age religions
<input type="checkbox"/> Suicide	<input type="checkbox"/> Politics and government
4. How involved are teenagers at your school in each of the following? **V** (very involved), **K** (kind of involved) or **U** (uninvolved)?

<input type="checkbox"/> Horoscopes	<input type="checkbox"/> Witchcraft/Wicca
<input type="checkbox"/> Tarot-card reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Séances
<input type="checkbox"/> Wearing satanic symbols	<input type="checkbox"/> Crystals
<input type="checkbox"/> Ouija board playing	<input type="checkbox"/> Spirit guides
<input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy role-playing games	<input type="checkbox"/> Psychic hotlines
<input type="checkbox"/> Magic	<input type="checkbox"/> Other—
<input type="checkbox"/> Novels with occult themes	
5. Do you **A** (agree) or **D** (disagree) with each of these statements?
 - Satanic involvement is a trend for today's teenagers.
 - Satan and demons are the creation of superstitious imaginations.
 - God will one day crush Satan because Jesus conquered sin and death.
 - Dabbling in the satanic (Ouija boards, tarot cards, and so on) is relatively harmless.
 - The satanic themes found in some hard-core music are gimmicks to increase sales.
 - Christians don't take Satan and his demonic influence on them seriously enough.
 - A Christian can be attacked by demons.
 - Satan can't get near you if you are God's child.
6. Based on the verses below, how can Christians stand against Satan?

Ephesians 6:10-18	1 Peter 5:8, 9	James 4:7
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THIS WEEK

Too many times talking about the satanic will spark curiosity in kids and the next thing you know, they're logging onto every satanic Web site on the Internet for more information. The discussion that takes place shouldn't focus on the gory details of satanic rituals and worship, but addresses the realities of satanic involvement by today's high school youth—and the dangers of getting involved.

OPENER

You may want to ask your group members to name all of the movies or TV shows that contain demonic or satanic themes. You may want to make a list of these for all to see (you may be able to learn a thing or two!). Point out the growing trend in our culture toward the satanic. How should Christians react to this? Why do your kids think there is such an interest in the demonic? Are these movies or shows good for Christians to see? Why or why not? How about other people and non-Christians? Do these TV shows or movies make light of the spiritual dimension? Why or why not?

Or read to your group the story of Christ and Satan in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11). What does this story say about Satan and his power? How did he try to trick Jesus?

THE DISCUSSION, BY NUMBERS

1. Write the word *Satan* on the whiteboard or poster board. Ask the students to list all of their responses. What is the most common thought about Satan? Where do they get this idea?
2. On a whiteboard or poster board, place two headings—fact and fiction—with a vertical line drawn between them. Brainstorm a list of truths about Satan under the fact heading and a list of false ideas about Satan under the fiction heading.
3. You can expect a wide range of answers on this. Give your kids time to debate their responses.
4. Again you can expect a wide range of answers on this. The objective is to find out to what extent satanism is a problem. Follow up with a question like this, "Why do you think satanism is a growing phenomenon?"
5. Have the students share their opinions on each one and give reasons why they feel the way they do. See if the group can come to a consensus regarding Satan's influence on today's high schoolers.

6. You may want to divide your kids into small groups and have each group take a different passage of the Bible.

THE CLOSE

Point out that one of Satan's strategies is to convince people that he doesn't exist. The other strategy is to convince people he is real and can provide them with power. That's appealing to some young people—especially those who feel powerless and who don't know the truth. Only the one true God has the power for living, fills people with joy and peace, and loves them unconditionally.

Emphasize the reality of Satan and the evil work he and his demons are carrying out in today's world. This can be effectively and quickly done by pointing out some of the names the Bible has given Satan—Tempter (Matthew 4:3), Liar (John 8:44), Enemy (1 Peter 5:8), Evil One (1 John 5:19), and Accuser (Revelation 12:10). Also emphasize that Christ came to destroy the work of the Devil (1 John 3:8), and that Christ—who dwells in every Christian through the Holy Spirit—is greater than Satan (1 John 4:4).

What's the most powerful tool for protection from Satan? Prayer. Encourage your kids to pray for God's protection and to pray for the leaders in the church, like the pastors, elders, and other leaders. Close with a time of prayer with your group and let your group members know that you are available to pray with them and talk more with them.

MORE

- You may want to read or encourage your kids to check out Frank Peretti's novels on spiritual warfare, including *This Present Darkness*, *Piercing the Darkness*, *The Prophet*, and *The Oath*. These books are fiction novels, but portray the power of Satan and his forces—and the overriding force of prayer from Christians! There are also several other Christian books on spiritual warfare. Be sure to skim over the section you will read so that you can explain to and discuss it with your group.
- Some of your kids may have dabbled in satanism or have friends who have. Take some more time to talk about the dangers of getting involved in this—even for innocent fun. What can your kids do if they or others are hooked on satanism? What can you do to pull them back? For more information, check out Cult Awareness & Information Center (www.caic.org.au), Apologetics Research Resources on Religious Cults, Sects, Movements, Doctrines, Etc. (www.gospelcom.net/apologeticsindex), or www.YouthSpecialties.com for more links.