

Sunday morning
teaching plan

Date:
21st September

Vicky Bees Series

TITLE:	Do not be overcome by evil... Do not be misled
THEME:	We live in a world full of distraction and evil /false ideas. We can be fooled.
AIM:	To know how we can overcome temptation, live as God wants us to

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

We live in a world where everyone has a truth to share with us, their own perception of the world. As Christians, we live in the truth that God has rescued us and saved us from sin. We should be obedient to His calling. How can we be sure that what we are doing is the right thing? How can we be sure we are not being fooled by 'wolves in sheep's clothing' (Matthew 7:15). It is all too easy to be fooled by "fake news" and AI pictures so that many believers get led down rabbit holes of warped theology and miss out on the truth and freedom that Jesus brings us.

WARM UP

Watch clip from "Would I lie to you?" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zf-jmTge_c0

Stop before they reveal if it is true or not. Get group to decide. Then watch outcome.

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1. A World of wild beliefs. Who can I trust?

Look at the images from web pages of some beliefs people hold.

1. What do you think of them? Why? What other "strange" beliefs do people have?
2. How do you know who to believe?
3. Look up Matthew 7:15-20. What does Jesus say about what we should believe?
4. What does He mean by *wolves in sheep's clothing*?
5. How can we tell if a belief is genuine or not? What does Jesus say?
6. Look up 1 Corinthians 15:33-34. The context is people telling lies about the resurrection. What does Paul say?

Key teaching point:

As Christians we must trust in what Jesus tells us. Why? Because He has proven Himself to be reliable. He has lived the perfect life and died and rose again. Everything He said is trustworthy. Christians everyday will testify to it. They have taken Jesus at His word and have not been let down. We should test all other beliefs to see if they bear good fruit. (Not self serving or harmful). A wolf is only out for its own survival, it does not care about you. It pretends to be a sheep to trick you. Many "truths" in the world do this.

Activity 2.

Discuss with each other. What are the things that worry you about living in the world today?

(Picture prompts on PPT.)

Read the whole of Romans 12 (have printed copy available to hand out)

Use highlighter of different colours to identify

1. Things Paul/God want us to do/say/think
2. Things we should not do/say/think

(five or so mins to do task)

Feedback What does living a Christian life look like?

1. What do you think v 2 means?
2. Read v21... How do we avoid being overcome by evil ?

Key Teaching point

Romans 12 is a picture of how to live a Christian life. It focusses on positive ways of being different from others, developing qualities like humility, and recognising diversity in the church. It promotes generosity and compassion whilst highlighting negative character traits to avoid. The way we overcome evil is to do good. Overpower evil with good. To do this we have to intentionally be different from the world. V2 teaches this. We must be different.

We do this by studying God's word and living out what it teaches us, with the help of the Holy Spirit of course!

TAKEAWAY

Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=dydyZ9nHJzk&t=0s>

Prayer for renewed minds and transformed lives

EXTRA INFORMATION