

Five Easy Steps to Wreck Your Life—Week 2

- Describe a time when you were physically lost. What type of feelings did you have while you were lost? How did you ultimately find your way back on the right path or road?

But I'm 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.

2 Corinthians 11:3 (NIV)

- Satan wants to destroy your relationship with God. In what ways does Satan consistently attack your relationship with God? Which attacks seem to be the most difficult for you to resist?

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Matthew 13:19-23 (NIV)

- What are some of the thorns in your life that tend to choke out your faith in Christ?

We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.

Hebrews 2:2 (NIV)

- Do you feel you are closer to God today than in the past? Why or why not?

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you...

Psalms 63:1 (NIV)

- Describe what your time with God looked like this past week.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding

Proverbs 3:5 (NIV)

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character"

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

- Why is having relationships with other Christ followers such a vital part of your relationship with Christ? How would you evaluate the overall quality of your current relationships?

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

James 1:14-15 (NIV)

- What temptations have been a reoccurring theme in your life? What hurt and broken places in you may be causing the enemy to attack you in these areas? How do you think Christ may want to heal and restore you in these places?

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him

1 John 2:15 (NIV)

- How would you define the "world" for you? What things in the "world" distract you most often from your relationship with God?

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me..."

Isaiah 29:13 (NIV)

- There are a variety of ways to lose our focus on God including: neglecting time with God, blaming God, hanging around bad influences, giving into temptation, loving the world more than God, and if all else fails, faking it. What is the one area where you feel the most vulnerable right now? What do you sense God is wanting to do in that area of your life?

Final thought: Satan wants to destroy our faith and will many times use the five different ways to attack our relationship with God. With your group, pray that God will empower each of you to battle against Satan and his attacks.

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For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- What misconceptions do non-Christians have about Christianity?

Explore

Read Matthew 13:1-23

- What kind of stories did Jesus use to teach the crowds? (13:3)
- Into what various places did the seed fall? (13:4-5)
- Which seed ended up sprouting and bearing fruit? Why? (13:8)
- To whom did Jesus direct His story about the four soils? (13:9)
- How did Jesus defend His use of parables? (13:11-13)
- Why did Jesus say the disciples were blessed? (13:16-17)
- Whom did Jesus liken to seed along the path? Why? (13:19)
- According to Christ, who is like the seed sown on rocky soil? Why? (13:20-21)
- What kind of people were compared to seed sown among the thorns? Why? (13:22)
- Of whom is the fruitful seed a picture? How? (13:23)

Reflect

- How involved are you in "sowing the seed" of the good news?
- What kind of soil would you say you are at this point in your life?
- What circumstances have a tendency to scorch your faith and cause it to wither?

Apply

- What would make you more effective in sowing the seeds of the spirit of Christ over the next month? What might be a next step to make this happen?

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read 2 Corinthians 11:13 and Hebrews 2:2. Ask God to strengthen your faith as you fight off Satan's daily attacks.

Day 2: Read Matthew 13:1-23. Ask God to show you specific promises in scripture that will strengthen your relationship with Him and defend against Satan's attacks.

Day 3: Read Psalm 63:1. Thank God for loving you unconditionally.

Day 4: Read James 1:14-15. Ask God to help you live in His strength and not your own when it comes to facing the temptations in your life.

Day 5: Read 1 Corinthians 15:33. Ask God for wisdom in the relationships in your life and to bring other Christ followers into your life that will encourage you as you encourage them.