

Teacher's Supplement - FOLLOWING GOD...OR NOT?

PROCEDURE

Motivation/Introduction (10-15 minutes)

"Who Am I?" Game Preparation:

1. Review instructions for "Game - "Who Am I?" (Located on pages below.)
 2. Cut out the six cue-cards.
 3. Write the following titles on the board for all to see.
 - a. Additional titles may be added to increase difficulty of guessing
- Businessman
 - America's Idol
 - The Rookie
 - Sexiest Man/Woman of the Year
 - Hollywood Has-been
 - Seasoned Saint
 - _____

Lesson Development (20 minutes)

Section 1 : WHO WANTS OUR ATTENTION?

How God Wants to be Loved

1. Read and discuss Matthew 22:37, John 13:34, and John 14:15.

Matthew 22:37, "...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

Q: What does it look like to love with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind? When we give our all what is left? How does it make God feel to know we love Him above all?

John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you...."

Q: How would you describe the Lord's love for you? What would it look like to apply that love to someone else?

John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Q: How does obedience convey love? Why should we want a God-focused life?

2. Read and discuss Jeremiah 29: 11, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Q: Can you imagine being at peace with God? How would you describe it?

What is the Lord's expected end?

In the game, "Who Am I?", who was following the Lord?

Explain.

Seasoned Saints are great examples of a life of peace and joy in the Lord. Their testimonies reflect an intimate relationship – one of love, good thoughts, peace, and the hope of eternal life.

Q: Can you describe how you feel upon hearing a story of God's blessings?

Do you desire your own stories of God's blessings?

Contrast the Lord's Expected End to Satan's

God isn't the only one who has thoughts toward us. Satan wants us for his desired end, too.

3. Read 2 Nephi 9:16, "...wherefore, they who are filthy are the devil and his angels; and they shall go away into everlasting fire, prepared for them; and their torment is as a lake of fire and brimstone, whose flame ascendeth up forever and ever and has no end."

The devil uses people to influence and distract our attention from God and from the reality of his eternal end of misery. For example, Satan wants us to look at a celebrity and say, "He or she has what I want! I want to be like that!" He tries to entice us to spend our time and money supporting their lifestyle and possibly even pursuing it.

The problem is, however, that celebrities DON'T have our best interest in mind. Their expected end is opposite to God's. They portray a glamorous life of popularity and wealth, but don't disclose how they have been exploited to get it. They promote a lifestyle that will lead us down a path to eternal misery and woe! Many famous people have sad and tragic lives. The glamour and wealth are all a façade.

Q: Can you imagine what eternal misery and woe and torment is like?

Considering free-will, our choice to choose, what are some reasons someone would choose eternal damnation?

Can you think of some tactics Satan uses to deceive people?

Who should we choose to believe? What expected end should we desire?

Who should we worship?

Section 2: WHERE ARE WE GOING? (20-30 minutes)

Q: (For introspection) At this precise moment in time, where is your chosen path leading - toward the Lord or away?

1. Read or paraphrase Lehi's dream, 1 Nephi 8: 2, 7-12.

V 2. And it came to pass that while my father ...spake unto us, saying: Behold, I have dreamed a dream; or, in other words, I have seen a vision.

V 7. ...I beheld myself that I was in a dark and dreary waste.

V 8. And after I had traveled for the space of many hours in darkness, I began to pray unto the Lord that he would have mercy on me, according to the multitude of his tender mercies.

V 9... after I had prayed unto the Lord I beheld a large and spacious field.

V 10... I beheld a tree, whose fruit was desirable to make one happy.

V 11...I did go forth and partake of the fruit thereof; and I beheld that it was most sweet, above all that I ever before tasted...and I beheld that the fruit thereof was white, to exceed all the whiteness that I had ever seen.

V 12. And as I partook of the fruit thereof it filled my soul with exceedingly great joy; wherefore, I began to be desirous that my family should partake of it also; for I knew that it was desirable above all other fruit.

Explain: The symbolism in Lehi's dream has purpose and meaning that is timeless. God revealed an extremely important message to Lehi and his family about life's journey. The same message is relevant today.

Q: How does Lehi describe the fruit in his dream? (Write responses on the board)

Fruit:

- most sweet above anything ever tasted
- exceeded whiteness he had ever seen
- filled his soul with exceeding great joy
- desirable above all other fruit

Q: Can you guess what the fruit tree represents?

2. Read or paraphrase 1 Nephi 11: 8,9,13,14,16,18-33, and John 3:16-18 and make a list describing God's love.

1 Nephi 11:

V 8. And it came to pass that the Spirit said unto me: Look! And I looked and beheld a tree; and it was like unto the tree which my father had seen; and the beauty thereof was far beyond,...exceeding of all beauty; and the whiteness thereof did exceed the whiteness of the driven snow.

V 9 ...I behold thou hast shown unto me the tree which is precious above all.

V 13...I looked and beheld...the city of Nazareth; and in the city of Nazareth I beheld a virgin...

V 14. And it came to pass that I saw the heavens open; and an angel came down and stood before me...

V 16. And he said unto me: Knowest thou the condescension of God?

V 18. And he said... the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh.

V 19. And it came to pass that I beheld that she was carried away in the Spirit...

V 20. And I looked and beheld the virgin again, bearing a child in her arms.

V 21. And the angel said unto me: Behold the Lamb of God,... even the Son of the Eternal Father! Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw?

V 22. And I answered him, saying: ...it is the love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore, it is the most desirable above all things.

V 23. And he spake unto me, saying: Yea, and the most joyous to the soul.

V 24 ...he said...: Look! And I looked, and I beheld the Son of God going forth among the children of men; and I saw many fall down at his feet and worship him.

V 25. And... I beheld that the rod of iron, which my father had seen, was the word of God, which led to the fountain of living waters, or to the tree of life; which waters are a representation of the love of God; and I also beheld that the tree of life was a representation of the love of God.

V 26. And the angel said unto me again: Look and behold the condescension of God!

V 27. And I looked and beheld the Redeemer of the world... And the Lamb of God went forth and was baptized...; and after he was baptized, I beheld the heavens open, and the Holy Ghost come down out of heaven and abide upon him in the form of a dove.

V 28. And I beheld that he went forth ministering unto the people, in power and great glory...

V 29. And I also beheld twelve others following him...

V 30 ...and I beheld the heavens open again, and I saw angels descending upon the children of men; and they did minister unto them.

V 31 ...And I looked, and I beheld the Lamb of God going forth among the children of men. And I beheld multitudes of people who were sick, and who were afflicted with all manner of diseases, and with devils and unclean spirits;... And they were healed by the power of the Lamb of God; and the devils and the unclean spirits were cast out.

V 32 ...And I looked and beheld the Lamb of God, that he was taken by the people;... the Son of the everlasting God was judged of the world...

V 33 ...he was lifted up upon the cross and slain for the sins of the world.

John 3:

V 16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

V17. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

V18. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

God's Love:

- God descended to earth as Jesus to bring about eternal life. Salvation//Redemption
- 3. Compare the two lists ("Fruit" and "God's Love") and describe God's expected end for those who love Him.

Q: Can you think of a time when you felt God's love?

What was it like?

How does God's love compare to earthly pleasures?

Message to Convey

Earthly pleasures are self-gratifying and temporary. God's love is about His desire to have a continuous intimate relationship with us - full of love, joy, sweetness... as portrayed by the fruit in Lehi's dream. God's love for mankind is exemplified in His personal sacrifice to save us from eternal misery and woe. God's love is so excellent that Lehi could not sufficiently describe it with words.

Q: In 1 Nephi 8:7,8, describe the place where Lehi found himself prior to tasting the fruit? Why did he pray for deliverance?

What does the dark and dreary place represent?

Can you think of a time when you were in a dark and dreary (depressing) place? What is your story of deliverance?

Why should we strive to partake of the tree of life?

How do we get on the path?

What keeps us on the path?

- 4. Read/paraphrase and discuss 1 Nephi 8:19-24, 2 Nephi 31:17-18 and

1 Nephi 8:

V 19. And I beheld a rod of iron... and led to the tree by which I stood.

V 20. And I also beheld a strait and narrow path, which came along by the rod of iron, even to the tree by which I stood...

V 21. And I saw numberless concourses of people, many of whom were pressing forward, that they might obtain the path which led unto the tree...

V 22. And it came to pass that they did come forth, and commence in the path which led to the tree.

V 23. And... there arose a mist of darkness;...insomuch that they who had commenced in the path did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost.

V 24. And... I beheld others pressing forward, and they came forth and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press forward through the mist of darkness, clinging to the rod of iron, even until they did come forth and partake of the fruit of the tree.

2 Nephi 31:17-18 "...For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water; and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost. And then are ye in this straight and narrow path which leads to eternal life;..."

Section 3: WHO'S TRYING TO STOP US? (35-40 minute sessions)

1. Briefly review what the tree of life represents in Lehi's dream.

Explain: God's love – full salvation – is the only thing that will satisfy our souls and give us true contentment in this life and in the life to come. Maybe you've experienced this yourself and you can attest to it.

However, Satan wants us to forget this truth. He's determined to tempt and get us off the path.

2. **Read Matt 7:13-14** *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

3. Draw a broad and narrow path on the board.

Q: Can you think of some examples of walking on the broad path? Walking on the narrow path? (Write responses on the board near the corresponding paths).

Examples might include:

Broad Path

- Following popular notions.
- Compromising standards/ not following God's word
- Making exceptions or excuses for sinful behavior.
- Living in the “grey area” instead of black and white.

Narrow Path

- Standing on God's word
- Fearing God more than others.
- Making God first priority and arrange our lives around Him - above school, work, family, or relationships

4. Read 1 Nephi 8:19-23.

V 19. And I beheld a rod of iron, and it extended along the bank of the river, and led to the tree...

V 20. And I also beheld a strait and narrow path, which came along by the rod of iron, even to the tree by which I stood; and it also led by the head of the fountain, unto a large and spacious field, as if it had been a world.

V 21. And I saw numberless concourses of people, many of whom were pressing forward, that they might obtain the path which led unto the tree by which I stood.

V 22 ...they did come forth, and commence in the path which led to the tree.

V 23 ... there arose a mist of darkness;... even an exceedingly great mist of darkness, insomuch that they who had commenced in the path did lose their way, that they wandered off and were lost.

Explain: As we can see from this passage, starting on the path does not guarantee staying on the path.

Q: What caused people to wander off the path? Can you guess what the mist of darkness represents?

5. Paraphrase 1 Nephi 12:17 [midst of darkness] ...temptations of the devil which blinds the eyes and hardens the hearts of the children of men and leads them away into broad roads, so that they perish and are lost.

Q: How do we feel to think that someone would perish and be lost?

Can you think of a time when a mist of darkness caused you to wander off the path? If not, can you imagine how it might feel?

Explain: Satan uses many tactics to create a mist of darkness.

- A. Hand participants copies of **“Tactics of Satan – for Participants.”**
 - B. Read and discuss, using **“Tactics of Satan – for Teacher”** to lead session. (Both items are located on pages below. Divide into more sessions as needed.)
6. Read/paraphrase 1 Nephi 8:24-28, 1 Nephi 11:35, and 1 Nephi 12:18.

1 Nephi 8:

V 24 ...I beheld others pressing forward, and they came forth and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press forward through the mist of darkness, clinging to the rod of iron, even until they did come forth and partake of the fruit of the tree.

V 25. And after they had partaken of the fruit of the tree they did cast their eyes about as if they were ashamed.

V 26. And I also cast my eyes round about, and beheld, on the other side of the river of water, a great and spacious building; and it stood as it were in the air, high above the earth.

V 27. And it was filled with people, both old and young, both male and female; and their manner of dress was exceedingly fine; and they were in the attitude of mocking and pointing their fingers towards those who had come at and were partaking of the fruit.

V 28. And after they had tasted of the fruit they were ashamed, because of those that were scoffing at them; and they fell away into forbidden paths and were lost.

1 Nephi 11:

V 35. And the multitude of the earth was gathered together; and I beheld that they were in a large and spacious building, like unto the building which my father saw. And the angel of the Lord spake unto me again, saying: Behold the world and the wisdom thereof; yea, behold the house of Israel hath gathered together to fight against the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

1 Nephi 12:

V 18. And the large and spacious building...is vain imaginations and the pride of the children of men. And a great and a terrible gulf divideth them; yea, even the word of the justice of the Eternal God, and the Messiah who is the Lamb of God, of whom the Holy Ghost beareth record, from the beginning of the world until this time, and from this time henceforth and forever.

Q: In your own words, what does the great and spacious building filled with people represent? (Write "**Great and Spacious Building**" on the board and list descriptions of what it represents.)

What is the great and terrible gulf that divides the people in the great and spacious building from those who eat of the tree of life?

What caused some people, who tasted of the fruit to become ashamed and fall away into forbidden paths? Can you imagine why someone would be affected by scorn and mocking?

Who is the author of shame?

Section 4: HOW DO WE REACH THE GOAL? (25 minutes)

Discuss strategies to retain salvation in Christ. (For guidance use **Teacher's Supplement**)

Q: Who wants to make eternal life their #1 goal? Reflecting on our discussions, what makes following God a challenge? (Write responses on the board.)

1. Read 1 Nephi 8:30,31-34

1 Nephi 8:

V 30 ...he saw other multitudes pressing forward; and they came and caught hold of the end of the rod of iron; and they did press their way forward, continually holding fast to the rod of iron, until they came forth and fell down and partook of the fruit of the tree.

V 31. And he also saw other multitudes feeling their way towards that great and spacious building.

V 33. And great was the multitude that did enter into that strange building. And after they did enter into that building they did point the finger of scorn at me and those that were partaking of the fruit also; but we heeded them not.

V 34. ...For as many as heeded them, had fallen away.

Q: What were some strategies used for staying on the path and continuing to eat from the tree?

2. Read 1 Nephi 15:23-24.

1 Nephi 15:

V 23 ...What meaneth the rod of iron... that led to the tree?

V 24. ... it was the word of God, and whoso would hearken unto the word of God, and would hold fast unto it, they would never perish; neither could the temptations and the fiery darts of the adversary overpower them unto blindness, to lead them away to destruction.

In the allegory, what role does heeding God's word have with overcoming Satan?

Demonstrate Holding Tightly:

1. Take a wooden stick, or a plastic baseball bat, and approach someone in the room.
2. Ask them to gently hold on to the end of the stick with one hand.
3. See if you can pull it out of their hand.
4. Now, go to someone else and ask them to hold tightly to the end of the stick with both hands. Tell them to do all they can to not let go.
5. Now try and pull it out of their hands.

Q: What can we learn from this demonstration about holding fast?

How tightly are you holding onto God's instruction?

Can you think of some examples to know if we are holding tightly or not? How does a person appear who is holding onto God's word?

Can you think of an example where God's word was used to resist temptation?

Closing Scripture:

3. **2 Nephi 31: 19-21**, "...after ye have gotten into this straight and narrow path, I would ask if all is done? ...Nay; for ye have not come thus far save it were by the word of Christ with unshaken faith in him, relying wholly upon the merits of him who is might to save.

V20. Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men.

Wherefore, if ye shall press forward, feasting upon the word of Christ, and endure to the end,...Ye shall have eternal life...

V21. There is none other way nor name given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God...this is the doctrine of Christ..."

Life Application (15 minutes)

"**Following God.... or Not? - Assignment**" located in on pages below.

Suggestions/Scriptures for Further Study/ Exploration/ Extension of Topic:

Q: Is it okay to temporarily put God's instruction on-hold for a time and plan to pick it up again later? Have you ever tried to do this? What resulted from the experience? When we find ourselves off of God's straight and narrow path, how do we get back on?

Explain: Satan is tricky and will use any means possible to prevent us from following God. He may even use *good things* for evil.

Participants give an example of how Satan might use each of the following good things to distract or confuse people from following God;

- Science
- Media/Entertainment
- Education
- Job
- Sports
- Performing Talent
- Other _____

Q: How can we recognize when one of the things listed above is drawing us away from God? Where should we draw the line?

Education Committee Lessons

- God Empowers Alma to Restore His Church to Righteousness
- Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice
- A Sure Foundation – Building Our Lives Upon the Rock of Christ

Game – “Who Am I?”

Ask for a few volunteers from the audience to perform a role-playing activity. Select 3 - 6 contestants. Randomly assign the following roles to contestants and hand them a copy of the description that pertains to their role:

<p>The “legitimate” business man (or woman): You’re a slick dresser and a smooth talker. You’ve worked hard to climb the ladder to where you are today. You might go into politics someday. You’re notorious for “bending the truth”, and you’re not afraid to step on the little guy when it suits your interests.</p>	<p>The American Idol Contestant All your friends and family say you have talent, so you know you deserve stardom. You love following your favorite pop stars, and you’ll do anything to achieve the celebrity dream life you’ve always wanted. You’re known to break out into song at random moments, even in the middle of regular sentences.</p>	<p>A pro-athlete rookie of the year Your inborn talent has given you a quick-ticket to sports stardom. You’ve got fame and money, but you’re still in the shadows of the bigger stars that play around you. You’ll stop at nothing to achieve a national championship and cement your name in sports history. You portray a bullet-proof, tough exterior, and you like to check yourself out and admire your build.</p>
<p>A daytime TV star, just voted sexiest man/woman of the year You use good looks to camouflage your average acting talent, and it’s worked well so far. You dream of moving on to real Hollywood stardom. You don’t have time for little people, unless you think they can help you break into Hollywood. You’ll do anything to get your name on the front page of the newspaper. Sex sells, and you’re not afraid to use it.</p>	<p>A “Has-been” movie star, now on “Dancing with the Stars” You once ran with all the big names in Hollywood, but now that you’re in your seventies, you haven’t made a big film in years. Young whippersnappers don’t even know who you are. You’re on this reality dancing show partly for the money, partly to get your name out in public again. Young up-and-coming stars make you bitter and get on your nerves.</p>	<p>A 50-year member of the Church of Jesus Christ Through the years, you’ve learned to live to serve others, not yourself. Your greatest desire is to see those around you to mature their relationship with the Lord. You don’t care about money, looks, or popularity. You care about spreading the love of Jesus to others through testimony and service. It isn’t always an easy path, but the Lord is with you and you feel blessed.</p>

Have each participant role-play their assigned character. Explain - Contestants will be required to answer a series of questions, in character, to allow the audience to guess their identity. Their responses should reveal the personalities of their characters. What motivates them? What are their life goals? How do they plan to achieve their goals? What things do they most value in life? Based on contestants’ responses have the audience guess their characters.

(Note: Every character does not need to answer the same questions. Select questions for characters as you see fit. Make up additional questions at will. Remember, you oversee the activity and may improvise at will.)

Game Setup: Write the following titles on the board for all to see: “Legitimate Businessman”, “America’s Idol”, “The Rookie”, “Sexiest man/woman of the Year”, “Hollywood Has-been, and “The Saint”. (You may add other names to the list to make it more difficult if you wish.) Contestants will have to guess which character from the list a person is portraying.

Say: Hello everyone, and welcome to the latest game show extravaganza - “Who Am I?” - where the audience tries to guess the identity of the members on our panel. Let’s begin with a series of questions.

Q: For what are you most noted?

Q: What did it take to get you where you are today?

Q: What’s the most important piece of advice you could give to your young admirers?

Q: Do you have any regrets? If you could have done one thing differently, what would that be?

Q: What is your number one goal in life?

Tactics of Satan – for Teacher

Satan's number one desire is to tempt people and get them off the path to salvation. There are many ways that Satan can tempt people to walk the broad path that leads to destruction. The crazy thing is that people may be walking the broad path and not even realize it! In their minds, they may be thinking that everything is okay; meanwhile Satan is carefully leading them downward to destruction. Here are some of the more common tactics that Satan uses.

1. *Maybe There is No Hell.*

One of the most basic ways Satan deceives people right from the start is convincing them that perhaps there is no hell. Or at least that nobody that they know is going there. He minimizes the threat, and causes them to let their guards down.

In the time of the Nephites, Satan sent men to preach falsehoods and confuse the people:

Alma 1:4 *“And he also testified unto the people that all mankind should be saved at the last day, and that they need not fear nor tremble, but that they might lift up their heads and rejoice; for the Lord had created all men, and had also redeemed all men; and, in the end, all men should have eternal life.”*

2 Nephi 28:22 *“And behold, others he flattereth away, and telleth them there is no hell; and he saith unto them: I am no devil, for there is none—and thus he whispereth in their ears, until he grasps them with his awful chains, from whence there is no deliverance.”*

Q: Why is this philosophy appealing? What is the danger in believing there is no hell? That there is no devil? That all men will be saved no matter what? Can you think of a time when you were affected by these notions?

WRITE RESPONSES ON THE BOARD NEAR THE WIDE PATH PREVIOUSLY DRAWN.

2. *Little Sins Don't Matter.*

Another way that Satan tempts people is by tricking them into believing that certain types of sin are okay. “Little sins” for example, are okay. He encourages them to live a “watered-down” type of Christianity where standards for righteousness are very low.

Nephi prophesied about our day:

2 Nephi 28: 8-9 *“And there shall be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will justify in committing a little sin; yea, lie a little, take advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor; there is no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.*

Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, false and vain and foolish doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord; and their works shall be in the dark.”

Q: What types of “little sin” is perceived as “okay” today?

WRITE RESPONSES ON THE BOARD NEAR THE WIDE PATH THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY DRAWN.

Q: Can you think of a time when you were affected by a “little sin”? What is the danger in thinking a little sin will not keep us out of heaven?

3. *Good is now Evil and Evil is now Good.*

Another way that Satan confuses people is by reversing the definitions of good and evil.

Isaiah 5:20 *“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*

2 Nephi 28:20 *“For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good.”*

Q: Can you think of an example of something that used to be good that is now perceived as bad or vice-versa?

HAVE PARTICIPANTS DETERMINE WHETHER RESPONSES BELONG ON THE ‘NARROW’ OR ‘WIDE’ PATH AND WRITE THEM NEAR THE CORRESPONDING DIAGRAMS ON THE BOARD.

Q: Can you think of a situation when someone became angry upon being informed that their behavior or attitude was incorrect? What might cause an angry response to correction?

4. *Life's Good, so What's the Problem?*

Another way that Satan cleverly pulls people off the path to salvation is by tempting them with natural things of life, or by making them so comfortable that they feel no need for God.

Nephi says:

2 Nephi 28:21 *“And others will he pacify and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell.*

Matt 13:22 (from the parable of the sower) *“He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”*

Q: Can you think of an example of thinking all is well when it really isn't well with the soul?

Can you think of an example of something obstructing God's word from having effect on a soul?

WRITE PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSES ON THE BOARD NEAR the 'WIDE' ROAD.

Q: Is it possible to please the flesh/world and to please God? Is it possible to walk two paths at once? Why/why not? Can you give an example of attempting this?

Tactics of Satan – for Participants

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Another way that Satan tempts people is by tricking them into believing that certain types of sin are okay. “Little sins” for example, are okay. He encourages them to live a “watered-down” type of Christianity where standards for righteousness are very low.

Nephi prophesied about our day:

2 Nephi 28: 8-9 *“And there shall be many which shall say: Eat, drink, and be merry; nevertheless, fear God—he will justify in committing a little sin; yea, lie a little, take advantage of one because of his words, dig a pit for thy neighbor; there is no harm in this; and do all these things, for tomorrow we die; and if it so be that we are guilty, God will beat us with a few stripes and at last we shall be saved in the kingdom of God.*

Yea, and there shall be many which shall teach after this manner, false and vain and foolish doctrines, and shall be puffed up in their hearts, and shall seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord; and their works shall be in the dark.”

3. Good is now Evil and Evil is now Good.

Another way that Satan confuses people is by reversing the definitions of good and evil.

Isaiah 5:20 *“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*

2 Nephi 28:20 *“For behold, at that day shall he rage in the hearts of the children of men, and stir them up to anger against that which is good.”*

4. Life's Good, so What's the Problem?

Another way that Satan cleverly pulls people off the path to salvation is by tempting them with natural things of life, or by making them so comfortable that they feel no need for God.

Nephi says:

2 Nephi 28:21 *“And others will he pacify and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell.*

Matt 13:22 (from the parable of the sower) *“He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”*

