

# KNOW THY ENEMY

## THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

Who are Satan and his demons?

## BIG IDEA

Satan and his demons are fallen angels who seek to destroy the plans of God and the people of God. In order to defend ourselves, we must understand our enemy and his agenda, and resist the devil (James 4:7) in the power of the Holy Spirit.

## SCRIPTURE USED

### **Ezekiel 28:15-17**

*You were blameless in all you did from the day you were created until the day evil was found in you. Your great wealth filled you with violence, and you sinned. So I banished you from the mountain of God. I expelled you, O mighty guardian, from your place among the stones of fire. Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty. You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth and exposed you to the curious gaze of kings.*

### **1 Peter 5:8**

*Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the devil your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.*

### **John 10:10**

*The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.*

### **James 4:7**

*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

## OPENER

### **Who is This?**

#### **For the opener you will need:**

- 2 bells or buzzers for "ringing in"
- Several pictures of prominent figures that relate to your audience. Select a few famous athletes, singers, actors / actresses, and a few historical figures. Vary the degree of popularity of the people that you choose. Any pictures from TV shows that deal with "the undead," such as *The Walking Dead* cast, *Vampire Diaries*, etc., would be especially good choices.

Your last picture should be one of Satan. You can print a color copy from “free clip art” online. Try to find an image of Satan that is cartoonish.

- Optional: Small prizes for the winning team (a bag of candy works well)

Divide your students into two teams, and give each team a bell or buzzer of some kind for “ringing in.” Explain that the point of the game is to correctly identify each character. This part will likely not be the challenging element of the game. The difficult part is that each team must avoid shouting out the name of the picture you hold up, and instead quickly relay their answer to an appointed single speaker for the team. Anyone can ring their bell / buzzer, but each team must appoint only ONE person to state the name of the individual.

Hold up each picture in turn and ask, “Who is this?” Award one point to the first team who can successfully wait until they have buzzed in and been acknowledged before speaking. Subtract one point from the team any time an answer is shouted out or wrong. After each point has been awarded, try to casually ask (not for points, just for dialogue): “What is significant about him / her?” or “What do they do?”

Your final picture should be the Satan caricature. After the points are tallied (and a winning team is determined, continue the conversation.

## TRANSITION

### ASK

- Is it strange to think about Satan as an actual being with a story and a past? Why or why not?
- If you were being honest, were there any of these popular people I held up whom you knew more about than Satan?
- Why do we need to know about Satan?
- Is it strange / awkward / uncomfortable for you to talk about Satan? Why or why not?

### EXPLAIN

Satan is actually a spiritual entity we need to be aware of, far more than we need to know the specifics of celebrity gossip or entertainment news. But unfortunately, nearly 60 percent of adults who identify themselves as Christians do not believe that Satan is an actual active, engaged spiritual being, but merely a symbol of evil. [[“Most American Christians Do Not Believe that Satan or the Holy Spirit Exist,”](#) Barna Group, April 10, 2009.] **Hollywood has made evil accessible and tame, making Satan and his demons less threatening and dangerous than the Bible states they really are. Vampires, zombies, the “undead,” angels, and demons: these things are wildly popular right now.**