

Planted. 2026

Session 4

The Serpent-Crusher

Golden City *Church*

Bible Club *Fall 2026*



Last Session Review

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"The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope." — Tim Keller

Genesis 1-3 lays the foundation of the Christian worldview. We explored what really happened in the garden, but there still remained many mysteries. Did an animal lead the entire humanity astray from God? Or was there a spiritual force behind the talking snake? In this session, we will enter into a wilderness, where the familiar whisper appears again...

Wilderness temptation

[Matthew 13:24-30] He presented another parable to them: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while people were sleeping, his enemy came, sowed weeds among the wheat, and left. When the plants sprouted and produced grain, then the weeds also appeared. The landowner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Master, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Then where did the weeds come from? ’ “ ‘An enemy did this,’ he told them. “ ‘So, do you want us to go and pull them up? ’ the servants asked him. “ ‘No,’ he said. ‘When you pull up the weeds, you might also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At harvest time I’ll tell the reapers: Gather the weeds first and tie them in bundles to burn them, but collect the wheat in my barn.’ ”





The pattern

[1 John 2:16] For everything in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's possessions — is not from the Father, but is from the world.

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the **tempter**	*the desire of the flesh*	*the desire of the eyes*	*the pride of life*
to **Eve**	The woman saw that the tree was good for food...	...delightful to look at...	...desirable for obtaining wisdom. (Gen. 3:6)
to **Jesus**	"...tell these stones to become bread." (Matt. 4:3)	...showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. (Matt. 4:8)	"I will give you all these things if you will fall down and worship me." (Matt. 4:9)

THE FATHER OF LIES

[John 8:44] (The devil) was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.

[John 10:10a] A thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy...

[Revelation 12:10] ...the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night...





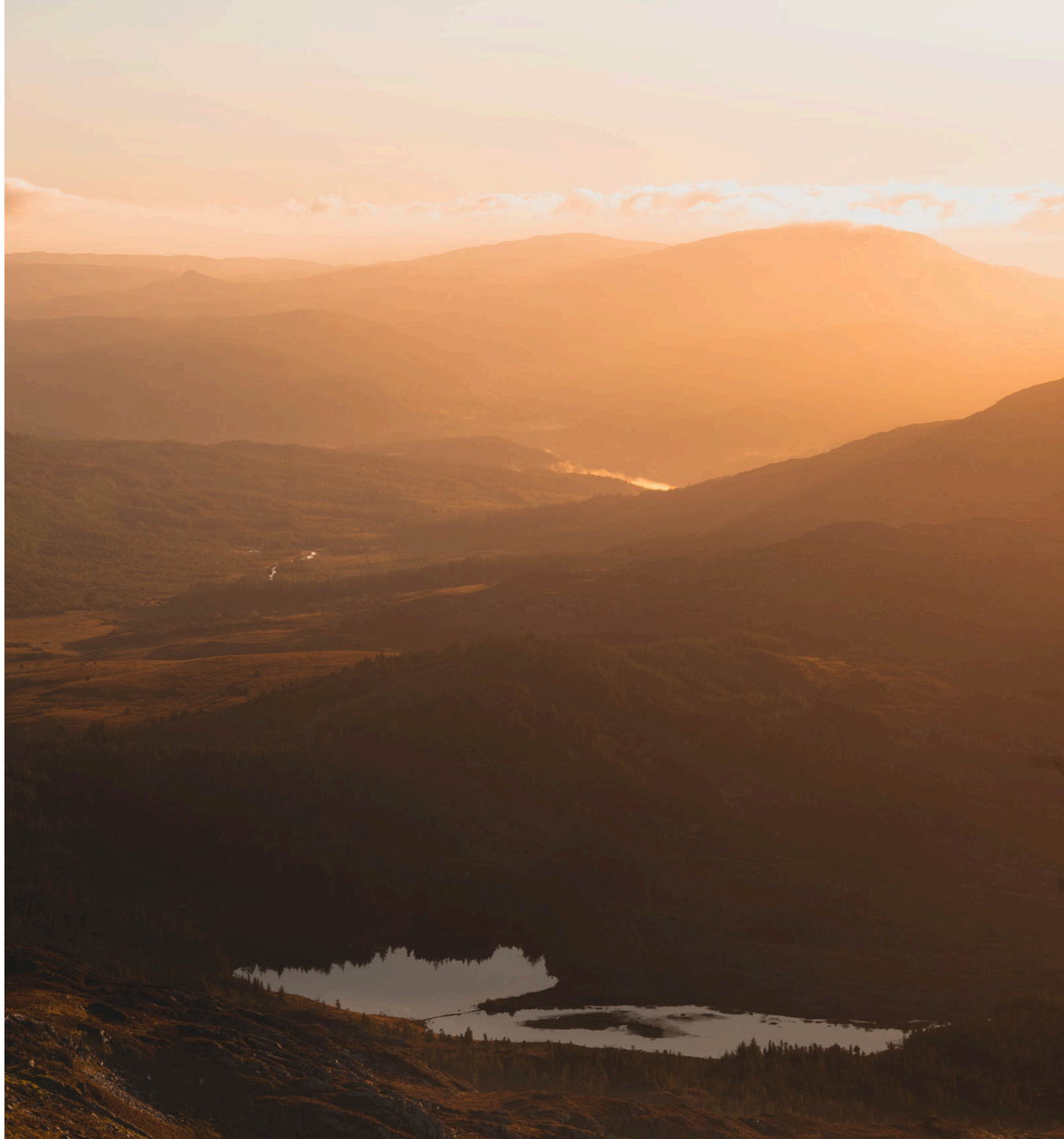
Psalm 91

[1]The one who lives under the protection of the
Most High
dwells in the shadow of the Almighty.
[2]I will say concerning the LORD, who is my
refuge and my fortress,
my God in whom I trust:
[3]He himself will rescue you from the bird trap,
from the destructive plague.
[4]He will cover you with his feathers;
you will take refuge under his wings. His
faithfulness will be a protective shield.
[5]You will not fear the terror of the night,
the arrow that flies by day,
[6]the plague that stalks in darkness,
or the pestilence that ravages at noon.
[7]Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand,
the pestilence will not reach you.
[8]You will only see it with your eyes
and witness the punishment of the wicked.
[9]Because you have made the LORD — my
refuge,
the Most High — your dwelling place,
[10]no harm will come to you;
no plague will come near your tent.
[11]For he will give his angels orders concerning
you,
to protect you in all your ways.
[12]They will support you with their hands
so that you will not strike your foot against a
stone.
[13]You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the young lion and the serpent.
[14]Because he has his heart set on me,
I will deliver him;
I will protect him because he knows my name.
[15]When he calls out to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble.
I will rescue him and give him honor.
[16]I will satisfy him with a long life
and show him my salvation.

Battle vs War

During World War II, D-Day marked a decisive turning point in the Allied fight against Nazi Germany, but the war did not end that day. Battles continued until V-Day, when victory was finally declared. In the same way, we are living in the middle of a spiritual war. Our enemy is not flesh and blood, but the spiritual forces of evil at work in this broken world (Ephesians 6:12). The decisive victory has been won, but the war is not over.

Here is the Good News: we do not fight *for* victory; we fight *from* Jesus' victory. Where Adam and Eve fell for the serpent's lies, Jesus stood firm in God's truth. His victory in the wilderness was a glimpse of something far greater still to come. Though the enemy continues to fight, his final defeat is certain. Until then, we are called to stand firm in God's truth, resist the enemy's lies, and remember that we never fight alone.





Inhabit the Story

The enmity between the offspring of the woman and the offspring of the serpent unfolds throughout the Bible. From Cain and Abel to Israel and Egypt, from David and Goliath to God's people and the surrounding nations, behind these visible struggles lies an invisible spiritual war. Yet even God's chosen people fall into the serpent's ways of deception and rebellion. Revelation 12:9 reveals that the ancient serpent is none other than the devil and Satan. But where humanity repeatedly falls for his lies, Jesus, the promised Serpent-Crusher, stands firm in God's truth. The struggle continues, but God's promise remains: "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet" (Romans 16:20). We are part of this unfolding story, called to stand firm in Jesus' victory until the final victory comes.

[Revelation 12:9] So the great dragon was thrown out — the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world. He was thrown to earth, and his angels with him.

[Romans 16:20] The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

STAND IN VICTORY

[Ephesians 6:13] For this reason take up the full armor of God, so that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having prepared everything, to take your stand.

[Ephesians 4:27] ...don't give the devil an opportunity.

[Romans 8:37] In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.



Worship & Prayer

The Stand by Hillsong Worship

[Verse 1]
You stood before creation
Eternity in Your hands
And You spoke the earth into motion
My soul now to stand

[Verse 2]
You stood before my failure
And carried the cross for my shame
My sin weighed upon Your shoulders
My soul now to stand

[Bridge]
So, what could I say?
What could I do?
But offer this heart O God
Completely to You

[Verse 3]
So I'll walk upon salvation
Your Spirit alive in me
This life to declare Your promise
My soul now to stand

[Bridge]
So, what can I say?
And what can I do?
But offer this heart O God
Completely to You
(x2)

[Chorus]
So I'll stand with arms high and heart abandoned
In awe of the One who gave it all
I'll stand, my soul, Lord to You surrendered
All I am is Yours
(x5)

"The Stand" words and music by
Joel Houston
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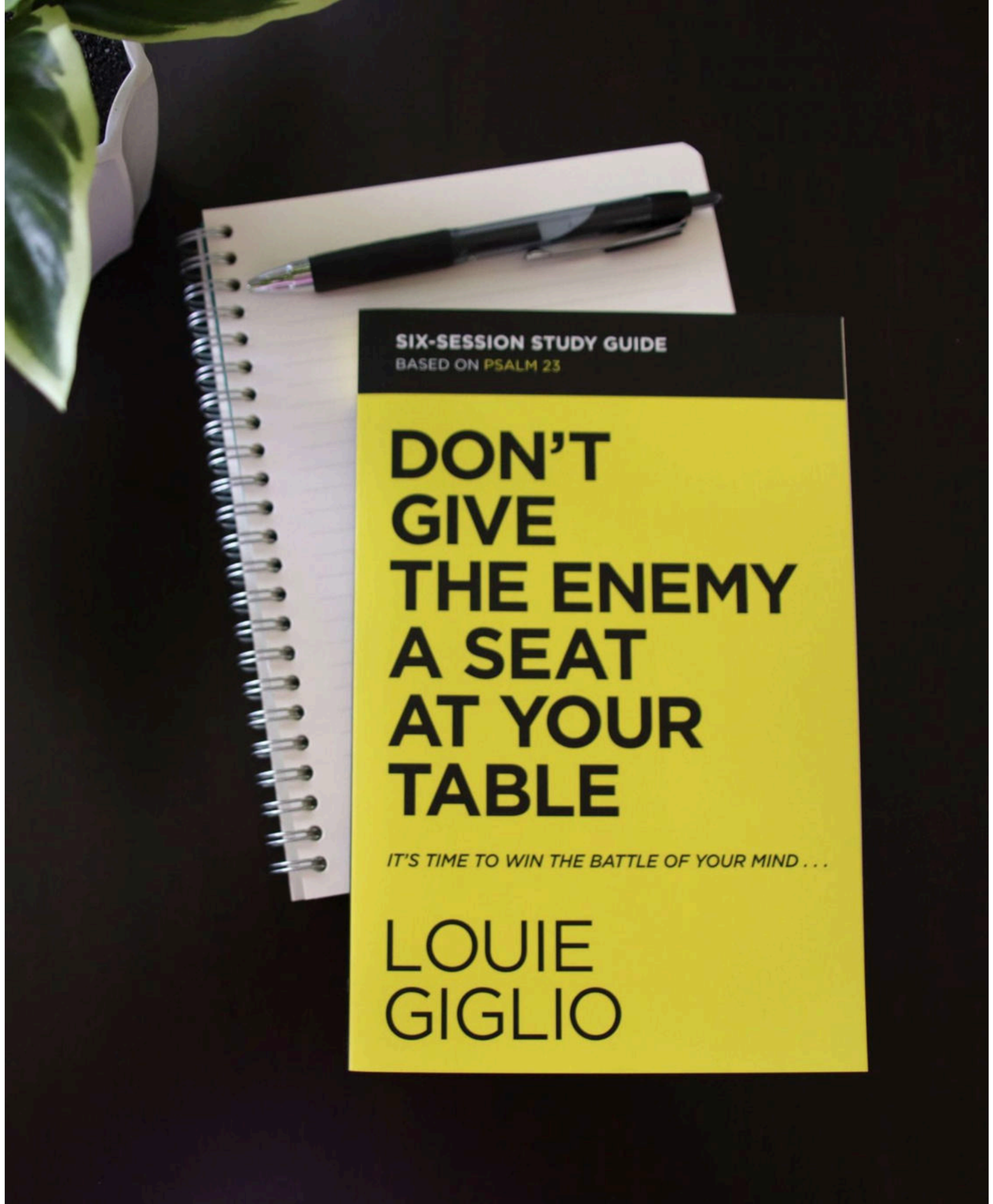
Homework & Book Club

Recommended reading: *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table* by Louie Giglio

Homework:
This session, we learned the victorious story of Jesus, the faithful Son who stood firm in God's truth against the enemy's lies. Next session, we'll explore how our stories of brokenness and transformation point to His greater Story.
For next session, prepare a *5-minute* testimony to share with the group. As you reflect on your journey, consider these questions:

1. **Before**: What did your life look like before you encountered Jesus?
2. **Encounter**: How did Jesus meet you in your brokenness and reveal his grace and truth?
3. **Becoming**: How is Jesus transforming your life today?

Your story doesn't need to be dramatic or perfect. It's still being written! The goal is not to make much of ourselves, but to make much of Jesus—the One who brings life out of death and beauty out of brokenness.
Your story is part of His Story.





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Next Week →

Session 5:
A Seed Must Die

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