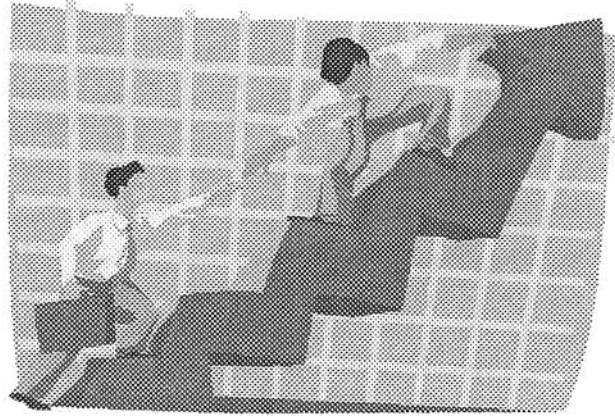


Overcoming Evil with Good



**A Study of
Difficult Life Situations
in which a Christian must
*Overcome Evil with Good***

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Lesson Objectives

What the student should be able to do at the end of each class.

- 1 **Pre-Course Survey and Introduction**
 - Describe the purpose and approach for the course.
- 2 **Discouragement**
 - List two Bible examples of discouragement poorly handled.
 - List two Bible examples of discouragement properly handled.
 - List three steps taken by Bible characters to overcome discouragement.
 - List several activities of service to others that will help us overcome discouragement.
- 3 **Evil Influences**
 - Give a Bible example of idleness leading to sin.
 - Explain the Bible plan for overcoming bad habits.
 - List three bad habits and list the good habits that should replace them.
 - List five good habits that could help us overcome idleness.
 - List four guidelines for the use of the television.
- 4 **Doubt**
 - Give three Bible examples of doubt.
 - List three causes of doubt.
 - Explain how faith and uncertainty can co-exist within us.
 - List three practical activities that will help us overcome doubt.
- 5 **Anger**
 - Give two examples each of proper and improper anger in the Bible.
 - Explain what causes anger.
 - Tell what useful purpose anger can serve.
 - List three steps to take to handle our anger properly.
- 6 **Ridicule of Others**
 - Give three Bible examples of ridicule.
 - List three reasons that people ridicule others.
 - Tell the proper response to ridicule.
 - List three qualities that should govern our behavior when we are ridiculed.
- 7 **Jealousy**
 - Give three Bible examples of jealousy.
 - Distinguish between proper and improper jealousy.
 - Give two examples of proper jealousy.
 - List two principles that should govern our behavior when we are jealous.
- 8 **Success**
 - Give two Bible examples each of good and bad attitudes toward success.
 - List two improper and two proper attitudes toward success.
 - List three practical tests of our attitude toward success.
- 9 **Anxiety**
 - Give three Bible examples of anxiety.
 - Distinguish between proper and improper anxiety.
 - Explain the differences between carnal and spiritual anxiety.
 - List three things for which we should be anxious.
 - List two qualities that will help us overcome anxiety.
- 10 **Disagreement**
 - Give a Bible example of each of three kinds of disagreements between Christians.
 - List three types of disagreements that may arise between Christians.
 - Give an example of a situation in which we are to judge and rebuke a brother.
 - List three qualities that will help us to disagree agreeably.



List of Lessons

Lesson	Topics
1	Pretest and Introduction
2	Discouragement
3	Evil Influences
4	Doubt
5	Anger
6	Ridicule of Others
7	Jealousy
8	Success
9	Anxiety
10	Disagreement
11	Review and Quiz



1: Survey and Introduction

- A. Take the pre-course survey.
- B. Mark the questions which you are not sure about or about which there is some disagreement. At the end of the course we will revisit these questions and see if there has been some change in your opinions.
- C. All of the discussions, conclusions, and suggestions of this class will be based on five principles from the Bible. Read each group of verses and determine the common principle that is stated or implied.

Texts

Principles

Eccl. 12:14
Matt. 12:36,37
II Cor. 5:10
I Pet. 4:1-6

II Pet. 2:4-9
I Cor. 10:12,13
Rom. 8:31-39

II Cor. 9:8
Heb. 13:5
Phil 4:11-13
I Tim. 6:6-8

Ps. 139:1,2,14
I Jno. 5:3
Tit. 3:8
I Tim 4:8

Lk. 16:13
I Cor. 9:24,25
I Kings 18:21

- D. Each lesson in this course will deal with a particular situation in which the influences of a fallen world challenge our faithfulness. Each will include a series of Bible examples, usually good and bad, followed by a presentation of other Bible teaching on the subject, and concluding with some personal applications for us all.

Accountable for my actions
Right can always be done
May be at peace (content)
Even if I don't know why, God's commands are best for me
Directed toward a single goal



2: Discouragement

A. Examine the following examples of discouragement from the Bible. For each, determine the causes of their discouragement. Using the next page, list the symptoms, and describe how each character handled the discouragement. (What did they do?) What were the consequences of their actions?

Cain (Gen. 4:1-8)

Ahab (I Kings 21:1-27)

Amnon (II Sam. 13:1-19)

Elijah (I Kings 19:1-21)

Jonah (Jonah 3:5-4:11)

David (II Sam. 18:33-19:18)

David (II Sam. 12:15-24)

Nehemiah (Neh. 2:2,3)

Joshua (Josh 7:1-26)

- B. Who will be judged for the behavior of these men? Consider the last three examples. Where did they receive their strength and guidance? (see I Cor. 1:3, 4, 9-11; Phil. 4:11-13) Where should we get our strength when things go wrong? Are we still responsible to do what is right?
- C. Read I Pet. 3:8-17 and Rom. 12:9-21. What do these passages teach about dealing with evil that comes our way? List some everyday activities that Rom. 12:10-17 suggests would be helpful in "overcoming evil with good."
- D. List some specific things that cause you personally to be despondent. List some activities of service to others that will help to overcome the temptation to do wrong in each case.
- E. Make a specific list of things we could always be doing to avoid becoming discouraged.



3: Evil Influences

- A. Listen to the story of the young man's experiences at his place of entertainment. What effect would these experiences have on him? What suggestions would you make about the place of entertainment he has chosen? (See Prov. 6:27, 28) What kinds of similar influences do each of us tolerate in our lives?
- B. What does the Bible say should be our reaction to the evil conduct in the world about us? (Eph. 5:3,11,12)
- C. Make a list of things put on and put off in the following verses from Eph 4 & 5
- | | <u>Put Off</u> | <u>Put On</u> |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 4:22,23 (and 5:3,9-11) | | |
| 4:25 | | |
| 4:28 | | |
| 4:29 | | |
| 4:31,32 | | |
| 5:17 | | |
| 5:18 | | |
- D. What reasons can you give that people spend so much time in contact with sources of evil influences?
- E. Read II Sam. 11: 1-5; 12:26-28. What could David have been doing to avoid being tempted? What do II Pet. 1:8-10, I Tim. 5:13, Tit. 3:14 suggest about avoiding idleness?
- F. List at least ten other specific habits that we could develop to overcome our dangerous idle habits (personal projects, family activities, etc)?
- G. List at least four guidelines to using the television/VCRs constructively in our Christian lives (see Phil 4:8; I Thess. 5:21,22).



4: Doubt

- A. Read the following accounts of disciples of Christ whose faith wavered. Describe the circumstances that led to their doubting.
- Lk 8:22-25; Mk 4:40
- Matt 14:22-33
- Matt 26:56-58, and see vs. 69-75
- Mk 16:9-14
- Jno 20:24-29
- B. What causes can you list from the above examples for a wavering faith? (see also Jude 22; Mk 9:24)
- C. Think of examples of Christians you have known whose doubts have overcome them. Are the reasons similar?
- D. What is the basis of a Christian's faith? (see Rom 10:17; I Cor 15:17; Jno 20:30,31) Do these facts change when we face fear or ignorance?
- E. Describe the nature of faith, compared to "knowledge" or "sight" (see Heb 11:1-3). Is it expected that our faith will cause us to know: the answer to every difficult question? the reason for every disappoint? the purpose for every problem? the outcome of every action? If we could know all these things, would we really have faith? (see II Cor 5:7)
- F. In what ways can we overcome the evil of doubt with good?
- Jas 1:2-8
- Jas 5:7-11; Heb 12:2
- Phil 4:6
- I Thes 5:11
- Heb 10:22-24
- II Pet 1:12-18



5: Anger

- A. In each of the references below, describe the circumstances that produced anger. Was this anger justified? How did each person deal with his anger?
- Saul I Sam 20:30-34
- Jews Lk 4:20-30
- Moses Num 20:2-13; Ps 106:32
- Moses Num 16:1-5; 15-19; 28-35
- Nehemiah Neh 5:1-13
- Jesus Mark 3:1-6
- Jesus Mark 11:11-18 (cf to Jno 2:16,17)
- B. Is anger condemned by the teachings of the Bible? (Eph 4:26; Jas 1:19,20, Tit 1:7) What warnings are we given about anger? (Prov 14:29; Eccl 7:9)
- C. What causes us to be angry? List several specifics and try to generalize from them. What is the first thing we should determine about our anger when it occurs? What dangers are involved? (Ps 37:8)
- D. What good characteristics can be used to overcome anger? (Prov 16:32; Eph 4:31,32)
- E. To what proper use may anger be put?
- F. List below some suggestions to follow when we find ourselves angry. (see Lk 17:3; Rom 12:19; Matt 18:15-17; Prov 27:5)



6: Ridicule of Others

- A. For each Bible example of mockery and derision describe the circumstances, and determine what motivated the ridicule.
- II Chron 36:11-16
- Luke 16:10-15
- Matt 27:35-44
- Luke 8:40-42
- Acts 17:18-22; 30-33
- Acts 2:5-8, 12, 13
- John 9:24-29
- B. What are some of the reasons people ridicule others?
1. Jude 18
 2. Prov 9:7, 8; 15:12
 3. Prov 14:6; I Tim 6:3,4
 4. Prov 21:24
- C. Are mocking and reviling condemned in the Bible? (I Cor 5:11; 6:10)
- D. What is the proper response to ridicule from others? (Matt 5:11,12; I Pet 2:21-24; I Cor 4:12) IS there an assumed quality that enables this response?
- E. What is the proper attitude to have toward those who ridicule us? (Eph 4:31, 32; I Pet 3:8-11)
- F. What good qualities will protect us against the shame of ridicule?
Ps 119:49-52 (Rom 1:16, 17)
Isaiah 51:7
Jude 17-21
Rom 5:5
I Pet 3:15,16
- G. What do these good qualities also prevent us from doing? (see part B)



7: Jealousy

- A. In the following Bible examples, list the objects of the jealousy, and determine if God approved of each kind of jealousy.

Acts 5:12-17 (vs17)

Acts 17:1-9 (vs 5)

Gen 37:3-11, 17-24

(see also Acts 7:9)

Num 5:11-31 (vs 31)

Rom 10:19-21; 11:11-15

II Cor 11:1-3

Num 25:3-13

- B. What human relationships are used to describe God's feeling for His people?

Deut 32:16-21

Ezek 16:30-32, 35-38, 41, 42

- C. What dangers are there in human jealousy?

Prov. 6:34,35; 27:4

Jas. 3:14-16

I Cor. 12:14-16, 24-25

- D. Distinguish between proper and improper jealousy.

- E. List examples of proper jealousy and principle of possession involved.

I Cor 7:4, Eph 5:28-31 (see also Song of Solomon 8:6)

I Cor 6:19,20

Eph 1:14

- F. List other principles that should govern our behavior when we are jealous.

Ex 20:5,6

Ezek 16:41, 42

Joel 22:18



8: Success

- A. Which is more difficult for faithful Christian: dealing property with success or with failure? (see I Cor 1:26; Jas 2:5; Mk 10:25)
- B. The following are Bible examples of successful people. In what way did they properly or improperly react to their successes?
- Dan 4:28-37
- Acts 12:20-23
- II Chron 26:16-22
- Lk 12:16-21
- Matt 19:16-22
- I Chron 29:10-14
- Lk 17:12-19
- Job 1:1-5; 2:9, 10
- C. What sinful attitudes may we develop when things go the way *we* want them to? (see I Tim 6:6-10)
1. Prov 18:10-12; I Tim 6:17
 2. Prov 23:2-5
 3. Prov 28:11; 25:27; 27:1,2
- D. With what proper attitudes should we replace these sinful ones?
1. Jas 4:13-16
 2. Phil 4:10-13
 3. Ps 37:7
 4. III John 2
 5. Prov 15:33; 29:23
- E. What facts should help us remain humble even if we do achieve great things? (Acts 14:13-17; Phil 4:19; Ps 50:8-15)
- F. What one thing should we glory in? (Jer 9:23, 24) Who is it that commends us? (II Cor 10:17, 18)
- G. List some practical test of our attitude toward our own successes.



9: Anxiety

A. In the following Bible examples, determine the causes of anxiety, and decide whether the anxiety was approved of God.

Phil 2:25-30

II Cor. 11:28, 29

Matt 26:36-46

Lk 10:38-42 (see also Jno 6:27)

Matt 13:22

B. What is it that makes some kinds of worry improper? (see Lk 21:34-36)

C. List some things that it is appropriate to be anxious about.

D. Matt 6:24-34 is a discussion of proper and improper anxiety. Read the passage and answer the following questions.

1. What two kinds of life-styles are being contrasted? (v 24)
2. What are listed as the wrong things to be anxious over? (v 25, 27)
3. Why do we worry over the wrong things? (v 30)
4. Who makes sure we have the things we need in this life? (v 32)
5. What things should we always be concerned about? (v 33)

E. With what good qualities may we overcome the evil of improper worry?

I Pet 5:6,7

I Pet 3:13-15

Phil 4: 6-7

F. What difference is there in the expressions and consequences of anxiety over spiritual and carnal things? (see Is 55:1,2)



10: Disagreement

A. In the following Bible examples of disagreement, determine the cause of controversy, and how it was addressed. Draw conclusions about which kinds of disagreement are proper, and how each kind should be handled.

Acts 15:36-41 (see also Col 4:10)

Rom 14:1:1-10; 19-23

Gal 2:11-14

B. In the following two examples, Paul's compliance with the requirement for circumcision (of Timothy or Titus) was different. Explain the difference. (Acts 16:1-3; Gal 2:3,4; 5:2-4; 6:12)

C. What does the Bible teach about judging other? In what ways are we to judge one another? (Matt 7:1,2; John 7:12, 23, 24; Lev 19:15; Rom 14:3,13)

D. Is reproof of error a part of a Christian's duty? (Eph 5:11; and see Lk 3:19; I Cor 4:14-21)

E. When is it proper to rebuke someone?

Titus 1:13

Matt 18:15-17 (I Cor 6:1-7)

I Tim 5:1; 19-21

Gal 1:6-9

F. What dangers are there in frequent disagreements? (see Gal 5:13-15)

G. What is the Bible picture of the ideal church in regard to disagreement?

I Cor 1:10-13

Rev 3:19

Rom 14:16-19

I Cor 8:10-13

H. What qualities should we develop to prevent disagreeable disagreements?

Eph 4:1-3

Rom 14:5,12

Eph 4:15,16

Phil 4:2-4

Phil 2:12-15



11: Review Quiz

1. List two Bible characters who were so discouraged they wished to die.
2. Give two examples of disciples who doubted, and state why they doubted.
3. Is doubt mostly an emotional or rational reaction?
4. Give two examples (one each) of proper and improper anger from the Bible, and tell what made each person (or group) angry.
5. To what proper use may anger be put?
6. Is it possible to be angry over the right thing and still sin? Explain.
7. Describe two Bible examples of ridicule and give the reasons for the ridicule.
8. Give two reasons why people resort to ridiculing others.
9. Give two examples (one each) of Bible characters who were jealousy for good and bad reasons.
10. State the conditions under which jealousy is proper.
11. Give two examples (one each) of Bible characters who were successful, and handled it a) well, or b) poorly.
12. List three improper attitudes that may result from success.
13. Give two examples of Bible characters who were anxious in a proper way. (And tell what they were anxious about.)
14. Describe the four types of disagreement (as categorized in our class), and give Bible examples of each.