

Main Point: As the opening lesson for unit 2, learners will be equipped with two methods for battling temptations and standing against Satan in everyday life. (S.A.C.)

The History: Spiritual warfare is a topic typically ignored in the church today. To admit that there is a battle going on around you between the forces of evil and God's angels is to say that it is possible for evil to win. While we know that in the end, Satan loses, we must admit the fact that he is trying to "steal" as many Christian souls as possible. Each one he is successful in luring into following him is a "victory" for the enemy. We must be prepared to fight back and make a stand when Satan comes knocking if we are to continue being a part of the ultimate team.

The Scripture:

1. **John 8:44**—You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for **he is a liar and the father of lies.**
2. **John 15:5-6**—I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man **remains** in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; **apart from me** you can do nothing. If anyone does not **remain** in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.
3. **1 Corinthians 6:18**—**Flee** from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.
4. **1 Corinthians 10:12-13**—So, if you think you are **standing** firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that **you can stand up under it.**
5. **Ephesians 6:11-13**—Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your **stand** against the devil's schemes. For our **struggle** is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, to stand.
6. **1 Peter 5:8-9**—Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. **Resist him, standing firm in the faith**, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

The Facts:

1. If you do not **STAY** with Christ, you can do nothing. (#2)
2. Run **AWAY** from sin! (#3)
3. Satan will do and say whatever he needs to in order to get your attention. He is a liar and a **CHEATER.** (#1)

4. There is always a way to **STAND** up to Satan's tricks. (#4)
5. We are part of a spiritual battle **AGAINST** Satan and his evil power. (#5)
6. By standing against Satan, you can avoid **CONSUMPTION** (being eaten). (#6)

The Application:

It is obvious if you spend any time in the Word that we are in the midst of a battle. While we know the outcome of the battle, it is still raging strong in our world and in our lives. If we are not equipped to fight in this battle, we will end up in situations that may be difficult to handle and possibly overwhelming.

The two methods for approaching your "stand" against Satan both start with the letters S.A.C., pronounced "sack." A good mental image of this acronym would be the football play when the quarterback is sacked. We are trying to stop Satan from advancing his evil plans by sacking him. When we talk about "standing" against Satan, we know that none of us have the power to do that on our own. It is only by the power of God that we are able to stand against the devil, by putting on the "armor of God" as Paul would say in Ephesians 6. Let's look at two different ways we can approach our "stand" against Satan.

The first one is "**STAY AWAY CHEATER.**" Which when broken down, stands for (1) Stay with Christ, (2) Run away from sin, (3) Satan is a cheater. When we stay with Christ, we are remaining connected to our life source. He provides us with the strength, courage, and self-control to stand against the devil; without him, we can do nothing (#2). Next, we must run away from sin (#3). This does not mean we are cowards. Many times Satan will have you trapped and you might think your only option is to give in, but remember he is a liar and a cheater (#1); you always have the option to run away. Satan will lie to you all day long to get you to think you must do what he says. Don't listen to him. He's a cheater.

The second way we approach our "stand" against Satan is to "**STAND AGAINST CONSUMPTION.**" Which when broken down stands for (1) You can always stand up under temptation, (2) Our battle is against evil, (3) Resist being consumed by the devil. Paul writes that God always provides a way out in order for us to escape temptation (#4). We must always be looking for this way out if we are to be successful standing against Satan. Next we must always remember that our battle is not one of this earth, but a spiritual battle against the evil powers of darkness (#5). Finally, Satan is creeping around looking for someone to devour, or consume (#6). If we are to make our stand against him, we must be self-controlled and alert, always being aware of his presence and never letting our guard down.

By following these two plans of attack, "Stay Away Cheater" and "Stand Against Consumption," you will be well equipped to make your "stand" against Satan. In fact, this is everything you need to know to stand up against Satan.

The Questions: (Section for teens to share their questions about the topic.)

Possible Questions:

- When do we know if we need to run away from sin or stand up under it?
- What's the difference?
- How do we know when Satan is lying to us?
- Why is it so difficult to find the way out of temptations?

The Reality:

Option 1—You change your approach to dealing with your personal struggles. Instead of assuming you'll always make the same mistakes, you start to look for the lies that Satan has been feeding you and start paying attention to the devil's prowling. You start looking for the way out of the temptations that always used to trip you up and discover that when you are remaining in Christ, they are easily found. Instead of always thinking you must endure every difficult temptation, you realize you can run away. As the weeks pass, you begin to realize that you don't have to be the same Christian next week that you were last week. Each week you make progress and become more like Christ.

Option 2—Instead of changing your attitude toward sin, you continue to accept it as a normal part of your life. Besides, the Bible says that we have "all sinned and fall short of the glory of God," so why even try. And God will forgive you for always messing up anyway. That's in the Bible, too. (Not quite: Romans 6:1) Deep down inside you want to be a better Christian but you keep falling into the same traps, and each time they seem to get bigger. Instead of going to Jesus for help, you try talking to your friends, but that just doesn't help. Each day is a disappointment. You're almost to the point of giving up on this whole Christianity thing. Satan has you right where he wants you.