

The Snares of the Devil  
Session 1 discussion Q's

1. In his preface, C.S. Lewis describes two mistakes we make when it comes to the devil: to deny him or to have an excessive and unhealthy interest in him. He then says that the devil is pleased with either error. Discuss the problems of each error.
2. What does Lewis mean when he claims in Letter 12, "Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one- The gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts."
3. Pastor Dave described some subtle temptations we can succumb to: being a good person, thinking we know better, and having it all together. How have you seen these temptations and what are some others you might add?
4. What is your attitude toward death?
  - a. Why do we have days like Ash Wednesday to remind us of our mortality?
5. Lewis writes that "the long, dull, monotonous years of middle-aged prosperity or middle-aged adversity are excellent campaigning weather" for devils.
  - a. How is middle-ages prosperity or adversity prime weather for devils?
6. Read Luke 4:1-13. How did Jesus defeat the devil's snares?
  - a. Notice the subtlety of the devil's temptations. How is turning a stone to bread a bad thing?
  - b. What's more important about this story: Jesus' example for us or Jesus victory over the devil?
7. Read Ephesians 6:10-12. Obviously, *The Screwtape Letters* is a work of fiction, however, as these verses from Ephesians describe, there is a spiritual battle going on. How do you think that battle might look? Do we have devils assigned to tempt us? How do we "stand firm?"