

DONELSON
FIRST

NINE
WEEK
STUDY

THE
BOOK

THE
SNAKE
AMONG
US

Copyright 2022
Jeffrey Dean Smith

WEEK 1: THE ORIGIN OF THE SLITHERY ONE

52 IN '22

"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."

Ephesians 6:12



THE
BIG
IDEA

The Snake is my greatest enemy.
He wants me to believe he is my
greatest ally.

FOCUS
PASSAGE

Isaiah 14:12-15



THE
SNAKE
AMONG
US

THE SNAKE:

Was perfect.

Was full of wisdom.

Was anointed and ordained.

Was in the garden of Eden.

Is wise.

Is listening.

Is waiting

Is my greatest enemy.

THE GOALS FOR THIS SERIES:

Clearly understand the intentions of the Snake.

Better recognize the ways by which the Snake slithers his way into my life.

Be equipped to combat his lies and win!

WEEK 2: THE SLITHERING SHENANIGANS OF THE SNAKE

52 IN '22

"But each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed."

James 1:14



THE
BIG
IDEA

Clearly understand the intentions of the Snake. I cannot underestimate the power of the Snake.

THE
SNAKE
AMONG
US

FOCUS
PASSAGE

Revelation 2:10



5 FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS ABOUT THE SNAKE:

1. The Snake is on a leash.
2. The Snake is not a Starbucks in Manhattan.
3. The Snake will never be like a zero-calorie substitute.
4. The Snake will spend eternity being extremely warm.
5. The Snake has a slogan: "Go to hell...along with me."

THE INTENTIONS OF THE SNAKE:

1. **Confusion.**
Confusion often leads to compromise.
2. **Deception.**
Deception = a blinding to truth.
3. **Encouragement.**
The Snake wants me to believe that sin is what is best for me.
4. **Murder.**
With his intentions to confuse and deceive, he can encourage others to do harm.

WEEK 3: THE SNAKE STRIKES WHERE IT HURTS THE MOST

52 IN '22

"...in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."

2 Corinthians 2:11



THE
BIG
IDEA

Better recognize the ways by which the Snake slithers his way into my life.

FOCUS
PASSAGE

Romans 8:28



THE
SNAKE
AMONG
US

HOW DOES THE SNAKE SLITHER?

1. The Snake slithers via doubt.

Doubt = hesitate to trust.

Rather than allowing doubt to lead me astray, allow doubt to force me to pray.

2. The Snake slithers via authority.

Because of sin, humanities God-given authority over the earth was forfeited. And now, the Snake is the prince of this world.

Yes, the Snake has authority over this world. But, he only has authority over my life if I allow it.

**Absolutely nothing touches my life without God's approval.
Absolutely nothing touches my life without some benefit for God's
glory and for my good.**

WEEK 4: THE SNAKE SLITHERS WHERE I LEAST EXPECT IT

52 IN '22

"...protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me so that they may be one as we are one."

John 17:11



THE
BIG
IDEA

One of the highest aspirations for which I should strive as a lover of Christ is to make God known to the world.

FOCUS
PASSAGE

John 14:1-3



THE
SNAKE
AMONG
US

HOW DOES THE SNAKE SLITHER?

1. The Snake slithers via persecution.

As a follower of Jesus Christ, I will be persecuted.

I will be hated. I will be hunted. I will be harmed.

However, Jesus assures us to have his peace.

2. The Snake slithers via disunity.

We are a deeply disunited people.

In John 17:11, Jesus prays that we would remain "one."

3. The Snake slithers via selfishness.

Dying to self is never something portrayed in Scripture as a fulfillment of one's desires. Instead, dying to self is a pursuit of making God known.

Church, let us long to be dead to ourselves and alive to Christ.

WEEK 5: THE SNAKE & THE HOME: THE IDEOLOGY OF FAMILY

52 IN '22

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

Ephesians 5:21



THE
BIG
IDEA

God is pro-family. The family is
His masterpiece.

FOCUS
PASSAGE

1 Peter 5:8-9



THE
SNAKE
AMONG
US

WHAT IS A BIBLICAL IDEOLOGY OF FAMILY?

1. I need my family. My family needs me.

The first institution established by God for human interaction is the family.

2. My family is the Snake's battlefield.

The enemy works to use those areas of my family life that are frustrating, hurtful, and challenging to wage war.

3. My family is not perfect. But, my family is perfect for me.

If I focus on the imperfections of my family, I will always view my family as a failure.

4. My family thrives when I respond to imperfection as Jesus responded to injustice.

When I am mistreated by family, scripture demands I respond by: giving love + giving what they need.

5. What my family needs is more important than what I desire.

I fight for my family when I place my family's needs before my desires.

6. My family's spiritual journey cannot be a casual stroll.

The family + God's Word = A family who lives by, relies on, and is strengthened through God's Word.

WEEK 6: THE SNAKE & THE HOME: THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE

52 IN '22

"This is the sign of the covenant I have established between and
all life on the earth."

Genesis 9:17



THE
BIG
IDEA

The God-ordained institution of
marriage is under attack today.

FOCUS
PASSAGE

1 Peter 5:8-9



THE
SNAKE
AMONG
US

GOD'S DIVINE + ANOINTED PLAN : INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE

1. The institution of marriage does not come with an opt-out clause.

God never designs a divine plan with an opt-out clause. Such a clause goes against His divine plan + character.

Scripture is clear that God's plan for marriage is: one man + one woman = one life!

2. God's institution of marriage consists of 3 divine mandates.

Mandate #1: Headship.

Headship = divine responsibility of a husband as the primary servant leader of the family.

Mandate #2: Submit.

Submit = the divine responsibility of a wife to both honor and affirm her husband as she utilizes her spiritual gifts.

Mandate #3: Unity.

Unity = the result of the husband + wife fulfilling their respective divine mandates.

WEEK 7: THE SNAKE AMONG US: ENDURE

52 IN '22

"...in later times, some will abandon the faith and follow
deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."

1 Timothy 4:1



THE
BIG
IDEA

The Snake's goal for the unbeliever =
hell.

The Snake's goal for the believer =
ineffectiveness, uselessness.

FOCUS
PASSAGE

James 1:2-4



THE
SNAKE
AMONG
US

THE SNAKE AND HIS PLAN TO WAGE WAR

The Snake knows that once I have given my life to Jesus, I can never lose my salvation. This is why the Snake works like mad to confuse and deceive.

Because of this, it is important to develop a plan to guard and arm my family. A plan that prepares us to fight.

In Joshua 8:1-2, Proverbs 29:22, Ephesians 6:12, and Revelation 13:10, I see that there is a clear call for me as a Christ follower.

As I fight, I endure.

My fight against the Snake is less about the pain and sorrow I encounter.

My fight is more about not abandoning my faith amidst the pain and sorrow I encounter.

I can do this because I know the fight has already been won.

WEEK 8: THE METHOD OF ENDURANCE

52 IN '22

"since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with endurance the race marked out for us."

Hebrews 12:1



THE
BIG
IDEA

Am I enduring by remaining in existence, or am I enduring by suffering patiently?

THE
SNAKE
AMONG
US

FOCUS
PASSAGE

1 Peter 3:18



HOW CAN I ENDURE THE SNAKE?

1. I can endure the Snake because I know what's coming for the Snake.
2. I can endure the Snake because Jesus endured the Snake.
3. I can endure the Snake because I know what Jesus has already done to the Snake.

6 PRACTICAL METHODS FOR ENDURING THE SNAKE

1. Know, discuss, meditate, pray, + never forget I have a brutally relentless enemy.
2. Speak the Word.
3. Speak the right words.
4. Insert my name in the Bible.
5. Pray before stepping into potentially tempting environments.
6. Create spiritual traditions.

WEEK 9: THE SNAKE AMONG US: THE ASSAULT ON THE SNAKE

52 IN '22

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers
and requests."

Ephesians 6:18



THE
BIG
IDEA

When I pray, the Snake slithers
away.

FOCUS
PASSAGE

Ephesians 6:10-17



THE
SNAKE
AMONG
US

5 TRUTHS ABOUT THE BATTLE

1. I must put on the full armor of God.
2. Doing so prepares me to be able to stand.
3. The Devil is preparing for battle. I should too.
4. The battle is a spiritual one.
5. I am to put on my armor before the battle begins.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

1. Belt of Truth = all the truths of the person of Jesus Christ.
2. Breastplate of Righteousness = clothes me as morally innocent and irreproachable.
3. Gospel of Peace = the assurance Jesus gives to those who place trust in Him.
4. Shield of Faith = protects me from the Snake's attacks of deception.
5. Helmet of Salvation = preserves + protects the truth of the gospel.
6. Sword of the Spirit = the Word of God.