

SPIRITUAL WARFARE SERIES**THE SPIRIT OF THE OCCULT****Lesson Text: Leviticus 19:31, 20:6**

MEMORY VERSE: “And he made his son to pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.”

(II Kings 21:6)

LESSON AIM: To show the effects of occultism and its influence particularly upon the younger generation. Many things that we think are harmless and amusing are dangerous and demonically influenced by spirits that are hid behind animation.

ACTION IDEA: Ask the class to name cartoons of yesteryear and today, and see how much they have changed. Has the devil had any influence on today’s cartoons and animations? Make a list of some of the demonic influences in today’s cartoons.

INTRODUCTION

As we have moved into the 21st century, we have seen a rise in curiosity about the supernatural. Movies such as *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings* dabble in the occult and have glorified such things as black magic and casting spells by wizards as fun and harmless. In reality, this concept of the occult can be traced back centuries and the occult and its practices are forbidden by God, and is also an abomination. In fact, according to scriptures witchcraft, seances, casting of spells, conjuring the dead, and telling fortunes are all tools of the occult. These tools of the occult are not as harmless as many people believe, but are invitations of demonic spirits into our lives and surroundings.

DISCUSSION

Occult means “study of the supernatural anxieties.” It also means “secret, mysterious, or magical.” Many people do not understand that anything done with the purpose of keeping one in the dark is the “spirit of the occult.” Magic, though many think is harmless, has its roots in the occult.

A movie such as *Harry Potter* makes the main character a hero of sorts by using magic for good. It should always be understood that the devil himself appears as an “angel of light”(II Corinthians 11:14) often seeming good, but with the underlying purpose of deception. The serpent appeared good to Eve in the garden of Eden, but

his whole purpose was to deceive and destroy mankind.

We should also understand that the tools the occult have used down through the millenniums such as: playing cards, tarot cards, fortune and chance wheels, astrological signs, signs of the zodiac, tea leaf, bones, and palm readings, and voodoo, along with today's 900 numbers psychic phone lines, are all a part of the same spirit.

APPLICATION

Often, the church has taken a casual or naive attitude towards what our youth watch or participate in. We are afraid if we preach against such things it would make us unpopular or fanatical. This is just the way the devil wants us to feel and has convinced many that young people will outgrow these curiosities or fantasies. However, many things that are learned or exposed in youth will follow a person throughout their life. Some of the psychological problems and rebellious attitudes towards God and the church are results of some things they were exposed to in their youth. Demons mask themselves behind what appears to be harmless fronts.

The ultimate results in such dabbling are rebellion (which the Bible compares to the spirit of witchcraft), mental torture, and eventually being eternally lost unless one repents and renounces all demonic spirits.

LESSON ILLUSTRATION

In a West African village, there was a woman known by all of the villagers as a witch. Many felt that she had the power to cure sickness and would go to her for potions. She was nice to the villagers, but everyone feared her and often mothers would steer their children away from her. It was common that anyone who crossed her in any way or made her angry could have a spell cast upon them and they could become very sick or even die.

One day a Christian missionary went to the village preaching Christ. The preaching disturbed the witch, and she became angry promising to cast a spell upon the missionary unless she left the village immediately. The missionary refused and continued to preach daily in the village. One day the villagers saw an unusual sight. The witch began to cry out from pain and it appeared as though some invisible force was slapping her. They then noticed bite marks began to appear on her arms, neck, and back. Eventually, the witch died. The word then spread throughout the village that the devil was angry with her and a demon was assigned to torment her to death. As a result, many of the villagers gave heed to the missionary and gave their lives to Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Is a movie like *Harry Potter* harmless?

2. How can a movie like *Harry Potter* influence people?
3. What does the word “occult” mean?
4. Should Christians seek spiritual advice from psychics even if they are suppose to be “Christian psychics?”
5. Should Christians have their palms read even if it is only for fun?
6. Why do you suppose the witch in the West African village died?

DAILY HOME BIBLE READINGS

MONDAY
A Revival Of
Great Joy
Acts 8:5-8

TUESDAY
Bewitched
Acts 8:9

WEDNESDAY
The Holy Ghost
Acts 8:14-17

THURSDAY
The Gall of
Bitterness
Acts 8:8-24

FRIDAY
Preaching
Everywhere
Mark 16:15-18;
Acts 8:25