



GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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Spider-Man: Far From Home (2019) | *Recognizing Deception* | BIBLE STUDY

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators and parents to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

PRESS START

Spider-Man: Far From Home was a movie full of secrets. Peter struggles to keep his identity as Spider-Man a secret. Mysterio keeps his true motive and powers a secret from everyone except a select team. MJ hides her feelings about Peter and we discover a huge secret about Nick Fury in the end credits scene. Sometimes secrets can be hurtful, but sometimes they can be helpful.

What is the craziest secret you've ever had to keep (that you aren't still keeping, of course)?

EQUIP

More than anything, **Far From Home** is about Peter growing up and realizing who he really is. With Tony gone, he struggles with feeling not good enough. He wants to fit in as a superhero, but he also wants to fit in at high school, and finding a balance between the two is difficult. It's so difficult, he often feels he has to choose between his old life and his superhero life; between what is expected of him and what he really wants.

To muddy the already confusing waters further, Mysterio shows up. This seemingly amazing hero says and does all the right things. He appears to be exactly what Peter was looking for to fill the void that Tony left. Of course, when it is revealed is a villain, Peter is once again thrown into confusion, struggling to figure out right from wrong and truth from lie. Often he can't even trust his own eyes. In the end, the only way he can defeat this illusionist is by forgetting his normal senses and trusting his superhero instinct.

As Christians, and humans in general, we can often have trouble seeing truth from lies. We can never know everything and we will never see the full picture, so how do we discern what is true and what is a lie? While we might not have a "Spidey Sense" to help us out, we have something even better. God gives us all the tools we need to see past all the lies, but we have to be careful. Our nemesis is an even better illusionist than Mysterio and his plans are far more evil.

LEVEL UP

Read **Genesis 3:1-5**.

As we can see in the story of Adam and Eve, the devil was a liar from the very beginning and he continues to use that tactic today. He twists the truth until we begin to doubt God and ourselves. He plants small seeds that could lead to our destruction. Fortunately, we are not alone. Everyone is tempted. Even Jesus was at one point.

Read **Matthew 4:11**

Satan used what could have been insecurities in Jesus to tempt him to disobey God. Jesus was very hungry, so Satan tried to get him to abuse his divine powers to make food. He then tempted him by questioning his divinity and offering him power. Jesus was perfect and did not fall for any of the devil's tricks, but we as humans are not perfect. Jesus not only resisted the devil, but also shows us how to see through his lies.

How does Jesus respond when Satan tries to tempt him?

To see through the devil's lies, Jesus turned to what he knew was absolute truth: The Word of God. God has given us his word for us to study. The more we learn about his truth, the easier it will be for us to see through the lies. If we fill our minds with truth, then lies will not be able to get in.

Peter Parker suffered from doubt. He knew he could never live up to Iron Man, and Mysterio fed that doubt and encouraged him to do what he wanted to do. Through what seemed like friendship, he fed Peter's doubt until Peter gave in and turned over E.D.I.T.H. Peter's doubt stemmed from a true fact. Spider-Man would never be Iron Man. Peter Parker could never be what Tony Stark was to the world. But the truth hiding from Peter is Tony chose him because he was different. He had seen things in Peter he did not see in himself, and that led him to choose Peter as his successor.

Satan deceives us in the same way. He plays on our doubt and often uses half-truths to make us feel worthless and less than God made us to be. **2 Corinthians 11:14** even says he "disguises himself as an angel of light." The only way to counter these lies is to focus on the truth of God's word. Truth is part of the armor of God because it is one of the things that protects us from the devil. God has created each of us exactly as he intended and has equipped each of us for the job he planned.

We read in **John 15:26** Jesus "will send you the Advocate – the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me." God did not hand us his word and wait for us to figure it out on our own. He also gave us a helper who is his very own Spirit. It is our Spidey sense to help us recognize what is real and what is not. This Holy Spirit will remind us of the truth no matter what lies we face. We will face lies and temptation, but we will never do it alone.

MOD

What are some lies you have heard? Did you believe them at first?

What are some doubts you have about yourself? How do those doubts compare to God's view of you?

Read 1 John 4:1-6. According to this passage, how can we recognize true prophets from false prophets? How can we use this to test lies we hear today?

What are some ways we can prepare ourselves to face Satan and any lie he tells us?

PRAY

Does anyone have anything we need to pray about?

Pray and thank God for revealing his truth to us. Ask Him to help us to stand firm in that truth and to keep us from falling for any lies the devil throws our way.

THE NEXT LEVEL

John 8:44 *“For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.”*

John 14:6 *“Jesus told him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”*

Psalms 33:4 *“For the word of the Lord holds true, and we can trust everything he does.”*

Psalms 119:160 *“The very essence of your word is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever.”*
(I encourage you to read all of **Psalms 119** to see the important of memorizing scripture and how wonderful God’s word really is.)

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