

Sunday morning
teaching plan

Date:
17th August

Vicky Bees Series

TITLE:	Be on your Guard, Do not be deceived
THEME:	Stand firm in the faith and do not try to outsmart God
AIM:	Be on guard against things that put us off our faith. Be honest with God!

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

These two verses go well together. 1 Corinthians 16:13 says *"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith..."* and the other Galatians 6:7, says *"Do not be deceived, God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."* We live in a world where it is easy to get distracted by life, to allow our faith to be watered down by the enticements of the world. Sometimes when this happens we seek to justify it and attempt to bargain with God or fool Him. This won't work, we must be honest with ourselves and honest with God. There is an eternal consequence to our decisions and actions.

WARM UP... Divide group into 2-3 teams depending on numbers. Each group to build a Jenga structure they think is strong enough to stand firm against attack by paper darts/ paper balls catapulted at it. Prizes for the winner.

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1. Be on your guard

Read: 1 Corinthians 16:13

1. When a soldier is on guard what do they do? What are they looking for/ protecting against?
2. What kind of things do you guard against?
3. What do you think Paul is talking about when he says to the church... "be on your guard?"
4. What does it look like to stand firm? How easy is it to resist temptation to let your faith slip? Look up Hebrews 4:12 and Ephesians 6:17... what do we need to do?
5. What kind of things sometimes tempt us to do things we know go against our faith?

Key teaching point.

Soldiers are on guard against the enemy and against attack. They are constantly on the lookout for signs of enemy action. They are prepared to defend themselves and others and the camp. In the Christian life, the enemy is Satan. He prowls around like a wolf seeking weakness, waiting to pick us off. We need to be aware that he uses all the delights of modern living to tempt us and trick us. Sometimes he even manages to trick people in churches to give false teachings, things that go against the Bible. If we are to stand firm we must know our Bible and be trained in how to use it as a weapon against attack. The more we are aware of the enemy and his methods, the more we can defend ourselves.

Activity 2. Do not be deceived.

Read Galatians 6:7 then watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxOX10vK-Wc>

1. How did the woman explain the bible verse?
2. What short cuts in life do people desire or strive for? What do they do to try and achieve them?
3. What does the verse say about people who do this?

Key teaching point:

We all look for short cuts in life, things to make our life easier. Some of them are harmless, like sat nav, but other things can be dangerous. When we want to avoid hard work but play the lottery instead. When we use AI to do our homework instead of thinking about it ourselves. When we cheat in an exam or test. We will not receive the benefit we think we deserve. Spiritually it is the same. There are no short cuts to God, faith in Jesus is the only way. If we try to deceive God and work our way into His good books we are mocking Him. It will end in disaster.

Activity 3. Act in a way to honour God and stand firm in your faith

Read/watch Matthew 25:31-43 or clip from The Chosen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAtfaENEU18>

1. What were the ways to help people that Jesus mentioned?
2. What would that look like for you at school?
3. Can you think of examples when you have done some kind, generous act to help another?
4. What sometimes stops us being kind to others?

TAKEAWAY

Share sunflower seeds with the group. Either plant them and watch them grow to remind you of the phrase "you reap what you sow." Or keep it in your wallet/purse/ pocket so when you find it you are reminded to sow good things not bad!

EXTRA INFORMATION