**Connect Study –Satan’s Arsenals**

As Christians, we are enlisted into the army of God. We are soldiers and we have an enemy. Eph 6 says that “we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places” Satan’s kingdom is hierarchical and organised.

Satan has three main arsenals against the believers. Firstly, he is a tempter. In Matt 4:3 “The tempter came and said to him, ‘if you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread’”. Temptation is an active weapon of God. He will tempt you with sin.

Secondly, Satan is also called the “accuser of our brothers and sisters…who accuses them before our God day and night.” Accusation is the passive weapon of Satan. He uses that weapon to accuse Job right in front of God. He reminds of us of every sin we have committed even though we have been forgiven of them.

Accusations are like an unauthorised trap surrounding us. They weaken us, causing us to have anxieties that can be paralysing, very much like an animal that has fallen into a trap. His intention is for anxieties to replace trust, fear to replace faith and despair to replace hope in our lives.

The third weapon is the most dangerous. It is neither active nor passive but dormant. This devastating weapon is called “spiritual strongholds” (2 Cor 10:4-5). They are like a landmine in conflict zone. When you are controlled by the strongholds, you are like those fish that are hooked and you have no freedom. The manifestation of the stronghold is inconsistency between what you believe and what you say.

The way to defeat the weapon of the enemy is by “the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony”. The blood of the lamb is a constant. But our testimony could be inconsistent so we have to learn to die to self and declare and testify God’s word when we are in spiritual warfare.

Discussion questions:

1. Describe a time when you thought you were under a "spiritual attack" (or someone you know had experienced this). What happened and what were your feelings at the time?
2. If you were the devil (or a head demon), what strategy would you use to defeat yourself using temptation? In other words, what are your weaknesses or vulnerable areas? Where could the enemy easily trip you up?
3. How can the devil’s accusations cause us anxiety? What are the counter measures that we can use against the Devil’s accusations?
4. Can you identify any strongholds in your life? How can you overcome them?