

A TIME OF MINISTRY (serving others)

Cain asked the famous question. And the answer is, “*Yes, we are our brother’s keeper.*” One aspect of ministry is protecting brothers and sisters from sin, temptation, Satan and evil.

During the next week find a way to help or encourage someone in our congregation to live a life freer from evil.

A TIME OF EVANGELISM (sharing Jesus)

A commitment to follow Jesus is not disconnected from reaching out to others with the Gospel.

Continue to plan an activity whereby your home group gets involved in helping someone in our community—in the name of Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER

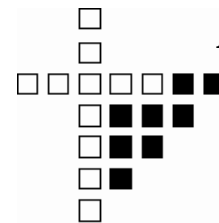
In your closing prayer please pray for an ever greater measure of the Holy Spirit’s wisdom and strength throughout the Church to build resistance to evil in its every manifestation.

CYBER CONVERSATION ABOUT UNCOMMON PEOPLE

All are invited to join in an online conversation about the book [The Call](#) by Oz Guinness. This book will help you explore the unique call that God has given each one of us.

Copies of the book should be available at local book stores

Go to our web site for more information.
www.stlukehas.com/chat



An Uncommon People

St. Luke Lutheran Church
Winter, 2009
Home Group Discussion #3

Encouragement for a More Intentional Christian Lifestyle

There is nothing outside a man which can enter into him and make him 'common'. It is the things which come out of a man that make him 'common'!
Mark 7:14 (Phillips NT)

This four part study is designed to do two things.

First, it continues our year long emphasis on prayerfulness. Each session will accent God’s invitation to prayer and our response to that invitation.

Second, it leads participants into a discussion about being *an uncommon people*. In calling us to himself, God has called us to be different from the unbelieving world around us. We are to stick out, not blend in.

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP (connected to one another)

It’s winter!

Share with one another what winter activities you enjoy.

Share with one another what winter experiences you do not enjoy.

If you were not in Michigan, where would you be?

A TIME OF WORSHIP (pleasing God)

During 2008-2009 we are emphasizing greater prayerfulness. We want to take God's invitation to prayer more seriously.

Before you pray, spend a moment thinking, "*We are about to talk to the One who connects his invitation to prayer with a promise: ask and it will be given you, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you... all according to his will, wisdom and power.*"

In your time of worship please lift up prayers regarding:

- The needs of others in your group and in the congregation.
- The ministries of sister and other local congregations.
- The unemployed and those facing foreclosure.

A TIME OF DISCIPLESHIP (becoming like Jesus)

Uncommon Resistance

Jesus said, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Matthew 4:10

Read Mark 1:21- 28. Jesus battled Satan. When he found him or one of his demons at work, he resisted, he exorcised and he prevailed. Jesus made it clear that his ministry was opposed to Satan. **Read Luke 11:14-20.** What does this passage tell you about Jesus and his connection with Satan?

Jesus also gave his followers authority over demons and sent them out to do battle. **Read Mark 6:7-13.**

As followers of Jesus today, we are called to resist the lure and the allure of Satan's temptation. Unlike so many in our culture who commonly throw their lot in with Satan and all sorts of evil, we are to live out an uncommon resistance.

The first way to resist an enemy is to properly identify him. Discuss how the following verses help you to identify the onslaught of Satan:

- John 8:42-47
- II Corinthians 11:13-15
- I Peter 5:8-9

In what ways do you intentionally resist the evil of Satan? Discuss this statement, "One of Satan's tricks is to make evil look good and good look evil." Where do you see that to be the case?

Of course the problem of evil is not just an external problem. We also have evil within... our own sinful nature even after conversion continues to plague us and cause us to drift from God.

The original sin in the Garden has affected all of humanity, so that every human being is born into a state of alienation from God... The biblical explanation of evil is not some intellectual exercise or a theoretical way to explain what's wrong with the world. Instead, it carries an unavoidable personal message: that each of us has sinned against a holy God... Virtually every other worldview draws the line separating good and evil between sets of people... But the Bible teaches that the line between good and evil divides each human heart. The evil is within us. *The Problem of Evil*, Chuck Colson, pg. 79.

Consider this statement, "To battle evil is to battle self." In what sense is that true? In what sense is that false?

Read James 4:1-10. What does this teach about resisting evil either from within or without? Discuss what it would look like to have an *uncommon resistance* to Satan. What difference would it make to have such an *uncommon resistance*?