

Letter 1: Reason and Reality

The trouble about argument is that it moves the whole struggle onto the Enemy's own ground. - Screwtape

1. Use your imagination and describe Screwtape and Wormwood. Take into account their appearance, personalities, and demeanor. Who would you rather have a conversation with and why?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Which action of Screwtape below do you think would be most effective in keeping teens from knowing Christ today? Why?

- a) Convincing teens that “real life” is just like their favorite reality show.
- b) Convincing teens that they are immortal and will never die.
- c) Replacing “right” or “wrong” with “what’s trending”.
- d) Acting without considering any consequences.
- e) Distracting teens with media and other forms of technology.

3. True or false. Satan wants you focused only on spiritual matters not non-essential matters.

4. Have you ever known someone who refused to come to church because of their disappointment with another Christian or the church? How does that change the way you talk to them about church?

5. **Bible Study Question** - Read Luke 10:39-42. What ordinary, everyday distractions was Martha concerned with? Who did it make her resent? What did she miss out on?

Letter 2: Distracting the Christian Mind

The Enemy allows this disappointment to occur on the threshold of every human endeavour. – Screwtape

1. Even though the patient has become a Christian, Screwtape believes Wormwood can convince his patient to come back to the dark side by using what?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – If Screwtape went to work on your friends, which method below might be the most effective in getting them disappointed with the church? How would you defend the church against any of these accusations?

- a) Boring sermons
- b) Dullness of the music
- c) Hypocrisy of other Christian teens
- d) Self-righteous attitudes of other Christians
- e) Youth leaders that do not understand teen struggles

3. Have you ever been disappointed in the church as a whole or with certain church members? How did you handle it?

4. Screwtape wants Wormwood to keep his patient focused on the failures of other Christians while ignoring his own problems. What is it about your own conduct and character that you would prefer to ignore?

5. **Bible Study Question** - Read Galatians 6:7-10. What does Paul use as motivation to keep pressing on when tempted to give up at doing what is right? How might you apply this to your life now?

Letter 3: Relationship

You must bring him to a condition in which he can practise self-examination for an hour without discovering any of those facts about himself which are perfectly clear to anyone who has ever lived in the same house with him or worked in the same office. - Screwtape

1. What annoying habits of others irritate you the most? Which of your annoying habits do you think irritate others?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape wants Wormwood to tempt the patient with opportunities to become irritable with his mother. What tempting opportunity below might Screwtape make the most of in your life?

- a) An annoying sibling who is always getting you in trouble.
- b) A parent's constant nagging about homework and chores.
- c) A teacher who is always giving pop quizzes.
- d) A friend who always talking about their boyfriend or girlfriend.
- e) Other _____.

3. Now that the patient has become a Christian, Screwtape claims that he's getting under his mother's skin. What "religious" behavior or Christian conduct might we exhibit that would get under the skin of our family members or friends?

4. Why would Screwtape recommend keeping the patient's prayers for his mother as spiritual as possible? How might his feelings for his mother change if he began to pray for her difficulties rather than her soul? Write out a more fitting prayer that the patient can say for this mother.

5. **Bible Study Question** - Read Matthew 7:1-5. Where does Jesus say our Christian focus should be? What does Jesus say will happen if we follow Screwtape's advice? If God was to judge you in the same manner that you are judging others how would you fare?

Letter 4: Sincere Prayer

It is funny how mortals always picture us as putting things into their minds: in reality our best work is done by keeping things out. – Screwtape

1. Who do you know that seems have a good prayer life? Why do you think that they do?

2. **Screwtape's Game Plan** – Screwtape's strategy is to redirect the focus of our prayer life and keep us from praying altogether. What part of prayer below causes you the most trouble?

- a) Trying to come up with the proper words.
- b) Praying out loud in a group.
- c) Repeating the same prayer over and over again.
- d) Trying to manufacture an emotional state.
- e) Envisioning God as some imaginary person.
- f) Feeling as though you are not taking it seriously.

3. Screwtape likes it when we create imaginary pictures of God as a focus for prayer. What mental images of God do we create in our mind? What is so attractive about praying to a mental image of God? Why is this a problem?

4. Screwtape tells Wormwood to encourage the patient to make bold claims in his prayer life. What sort of bold claims might we make while praying? Why can this be a problem?

5. **Bible Study Question** - Read Matthew 6:5-13. How does Jesus say we should pray?