"The Grinch That Tried to Steal Christmas" (The Roots and Rise of Antisemitism)

The devil did not want the birth of Christ to happen! That simple fact, along with his desire to thwart Christ's second coming helps us understand the world's hatred of the Jews. We will have a better idea of what's really going on in the world today as we consider. . .

The War in Heaven (Revelation 12:1-12)

The War on Earth (Genesis 3:15 to Revelation 20:1-4, 10)

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*Genesis 3:15
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The War Continues (Matthew 23:37-39; Acts 9:1-5)

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Small Group Discussion Guide

<u>Icebreaker</u>: What is (or was as a child) your favorite Christmas movie or television special?

- 1. Share something from Sunday's message that was either an important reminder or raised a question in your mind.
- 2. Why did the devil so strongly oppose Christ's first coming and now also His second coming? What does this have to do with the world's attitude toward the Jews?
- 3. Discuss as a group how Satan was at work through these people: Cain, Pharaoh (Ex.1), King Saul, Haman, Herod and Judas. Where do you observe Satan's influence today?
- 4. How should a church family or an individual believer in Christ respond to the fact that we are one of Satan's targets?

Small Group Prayer

Read Ephesians 6:10-20 and pray for each other to confidently use the armor of God and to share the gospel this week. Pray also for the Jewish people and others to receive Christ.

Digging Deeper

Go back and review each of the Scripture passages on the sermon outline in their biblical context. Jot down your observations and prayerfully ask God to help you be alert and effective in the battle.

^{*}Genesis 4:8: 1 John 3:12

^{*}Genesis 6:1-7

^{*}Gen.27:41-42

^{*}Exodus 1:15-16

^{*1} Samuel 18-26

^{*2} Kings 11:1-3

^{*}Esther 3-9

^{*}Matthew 2:13, 16

^{*}Matthew 4:1-11

^{*}Luke 4:28-30

^{*}John 13:21, 26-27

^{*}Matthew 27:39-46

^{*}Hebrews 2:14; 1 Jn.3:8

^{*}Revelation 20:1-4, 10