

LEADER'S GUIDE  
FOR THE VIDEO

# Doorways to Danger

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## **HELP CHILDREN AVOID THE DANGERS OF THE OCCULT**

Dabbling in the occult is very widespread, especially among school children and there may be some in your group who have had experiences with the occult, some of them very frightening.

The word "occult" comes from the Latin word "occultus" and simply means 'hidden, secret or dark.' It is the word used to describe those phenomena which transcend, or appears to transcend, the world of the senses. "Occult practices" are experiences that bring a person into contact with 'spirits' that are demonic in source. Such contacts is forbidden in Scriptures. These contacts may be produced by mechanical means, e.g., ouija board, tarot cards etc., or by consultation with a person, e.g., medium, fortune-teller, clairvoyant etc.

The following Biblical words and terms refer to idolatrous- occult practices: divination, seducing spirits, necromancy, charmer, enchanter, astrologer, magicians, sorcery, witchcraft, having a familiar spirit, etc..

We are often warned in the Scriptures about the spirit world. As never before, we should heed the admonition: "Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand safe against the wiles of Satan. For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies-the evil kings of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world." Ephesians 6:11-12, Living Letters.

The influence of these principalities and powers can be observed through the following (each of which have various manifestations):

- Fortune Telling
- Spiritism
- Witchcraft
- Satanism

## **WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE GET INVOLVED WITH THE OCCULT?**

1. Personal Choice, the freedom to choose. Media exposure. (television, radio, newspapers, magazines, comics, videos, books, clubs, films and theatre so often promote a non- Biblical worldview of the supernatural.)
2. Heredity. Familiar spirits passing down from one member of a family to the next due to the previous generation[s] involvement with magic, spiritism or fortune telling. This can go back four generations.
3. Being drawn in through peer group pressure. Certain types of rock groups. Immoral activity.
4. The lack of teaching by the Church with regards to the Biblical supernatural worldview.
5. Casual contact through ignorance.
6. Seeking after power, control, authority.
7. The false notion that occultism is a science.
8. Through the use of drugs that produce an ASC (altered state of consciousness).
9. Eastern mysticism.
10. Generational sexual abuse through witchcraft rituals. Young children initiated by parents/relatives.
11. Some New Age and psychic expressions.
12. Fantasy role playing games such as Dungeons & Dragons.

**It is strongly recommended that the leader view this video first and highlight particular areas for discussion.**

### **SEQUENCE OF EVENTS ON VIDEO**

1. Opening statement 'All around the world ...'
2. Song – 'Is Anybody There?'
3. Kevin Logan's book cover- 'Paganism and the Occult' and comment from Kevin.
4. 'Heartbeat' tell of their experiences in schools.
5. Eddie Vas recalls an incident on the occult. Young girl/ spiritism.
6. Ex-witch David Stillwell tells of his introduction to witchcraft and shares his understanding of Halloween.
7. Do you believe there is a devil or evil spirits? Are they fact or fantasy?
8. Introduction to 'worldview'. Andrea Farley answers six basic worldview questions relating to life past, present and future.
  - Where did I come from?
  - What am I?
  - Does the past affect the present?
  - What is right or wrong?
  - Death then what?
  - What is reality?
9. Artist Rodney Matthews' poster, 'A-Z the Supernatural.'
10. Carolyn Williams. Cloakroom incident at school.
11. David Stillwell on Ouija boards and deception.
12. Videos- Paul Bennison speaks of their effects.
13. Danger Triangle
14. Levitation. Carolyn Williams' involvement and the result upon the lives of both her and her friends.
15. Astrology- Paul Heather warns of some of the dangers of involvement with the occult..
16. Judith Dawson on child abuse. Finding almost beyond belief. Emotional and sexual abuse by parents and relatives upon children through Satanic rituals.
17. Word of advice by Kevin Logan. 'Don't start on that path...'

### **HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTED QUESTIONS FOR YOUR USE IN DISCUSSION**

1. There may be many reasons why occult practices appear to work. Hoax, sleight of hand, psychological power in the group, or through demonic forces. What explanation do you think is the most likely?
2. Do you think you could ever be 'influenced' by 'outside forces'? Ask yourself these questions:
  - a) Have you ever read your horoscope and taken it seriously?
  - b) Have you played a Ouija board? What effect did it have on you?
  - c) If someone told you they could put you in touch with a person who had died, would you take them up on it?

3. Do you think there are any dangers in dabbling in the occult?
4. Several people spoke of their experiences. Did any of them surprise you?
5. Have you formed a worldview yet? How would you answer the six questions that were put to Andrea? (For questions see Item #8 on previous page.)
6. How do the devil and Christ differ in their approach to man? (See John 1:1-18. John 8:12. John 1:29-34. 2 Corinthians 4:4. Philippians 2:6. Matthew 13:19. John 5:20. Luke 4:22. 2 Thessalonians 2:9. Matthew 4:1-11. 1 Peter 3:18-22.)
7. Although demon activity has cropped up in every age, to a lesser or greater degree, why did the world of demons so strongly reveal itself during the ministry of Christ? (Mark 1:23-27. Mark 9:14-29.)
8. Some reasons for steering clear of occultism? (See: Deut. 18:10-12. Lev. 19:31. I Tim. 4:1)
9. Can you think of two reasons why getting involved with the occult is similar to walking into a radioactive area?
  - (1) That which can harm you is invisible!
  - (2) The harmful effects may not show up immediately.
10. How can people be set free from the bad effects they have experienced through spiritism, fortune telling, etc? (Note especially the sections with Eddie Vas and Paul Bennison.) Why did it 'work'? (1 John 3:8. Mark 16:17. Eph. 1:19-23. Col. 1:15-20.)

**HERE ARE SOME SELECTED QUOTATIONS FROM THE PROGRAMS THAT YOU MAY FIND USEFUL FOR DISCUSSION.**

"We were at Christian camp and it was just like more read the horoscope than actually read the bible. It was incredible."

"There was a survey...amongst teenagers, 97% of those questions had actually dabbled in the occult."

"For many people, it (the occult) is a natural part of life."

"Halloween is the high Satanic festival of the year...And yet the majority of people just accept it as being trick-or-treat."

"In Christ's victory, there is the promise of freedom from the harmful effects of contact with the occult."

"Ouija boards in themselves are very dangerous things. You cannot contact the spirits of dead people. What happens when you use the ouija board is you open up doorways into the lower spiritual realms..."

“That is Satan’s way. You get sucked in and think you’re in control and think you’re able to cope with and handle the things you got yourself into, but when the crunch comes, you recognize that you are in much deeper than you ever realized.”

“When I look back, it (the occult) had a big effect on me...It had a real significant effect on me mentally, emotionally. It affect me full stop...It messed me up.”

“They lost the ability to be people in their own right and to make choices...Don’t start on that path. Once you start on it, it’s a very slippery slope that ends in disaster. Apple dunking, and party time.”

“What we believe affects the way we behave.”

### **SPECIAL NOTE TO THE LEADER**

The subject area before us is one that most of your young people will have some familiarity with. You probably will find that many of them have been perplexed and are eager for an opportunity to get insight and guidance into these matters. Others may be surprised that there is any potential danger in some to the specifics that are treated in the video. So you should find that there will be lively discussion and sincere questions.

While it is important to have a relaxed atmosphere where your members will express themselves openly and fell free to bring up matters that may be troubling them, at the same time, the leader needs to be especially sensitive and recognize when a young person may be sharing more than is prudent or getting into problem areas and details that would best be explored in a counselling setting.