I. Leashes and Unleashed

A. Believing lies has such deliberating and destructive power that our enemy has chosen it’s his way of ruining our lives.

1. The Bible teaches us that Satan wants “to steal and kill and destroy” (John 10:10)

2. How does he do it?

3. In the garden Satan’s original game plan for ruining Adam and Eve’s lives was to get them to believe a lie, as told in Genesis 3, he has been using that tactic every since.

4. Speaking of Satan, Jesus said, “there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and a father of lies” (John 8:44).

5. The alternative is pursuing truth.

B. Let’s look at some of the lies we commonly believe.

1. Specifically, those that cause us to give up and quit.

II. Lie #1 You Don’t Have What it Takes

A. This is a lie that can make you feel like throwing in the towel and giving up.

1. It can come in a number of variations.

2. This lie says you are not qualified or capable.

3. It’s interesting to note that research says, both men and women struggle with feelings of inadequacy, though in different ways.

4. We can all buy in to the idea of not having what it takes.

5. This lie is easy to believe because of the many options for comparison.

6. There are consequences for falling into this trap or lie.

7. The lie is tricky but there is some truth to it. It’s not the whole truth because truth sets us free.

B. Listen to how this liberating news is shared with us in God’s word: “his divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life” (2 Pet. 1:3).

1. A Godly life means more than means more than a life not dominated by sin.

2. It means God has a great plan for your life, and through his power will give you everything you need.

III. Lie #2 You Can Fix it Yourself
B. **It increases your pride.**
1. You tend to believe you don’t need or don’t have to ask for help.
2. Proverbs 16:18 says, “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”;
3. You begin to tell yourself that you can control it and you downsize the problem in your mind.

C. **It robs you of Intimacy in our relationship.**
1. When you confide in someone and ask for help it deepens the relationship.
2. Admitting to someone else that you can’t fix it requires vulnerability.

D. **It fuels hypocrisy.**
1. Hypocrisy says, I can’t really let people know how bad things really are in my life, so I have to pretend.
2. The lie of “I can fix it myself” doesn’t lead to a life we want to live but it can be overcome through Jesus;
3. In Hebrews 4:14-15: *Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*
4. In those days the high priest who represented you before God.
5. He spoke to God for you and communicated your interest. Jesus is now our high priest and he understands our weakness.

6. **How does this help us to overcome the lie of I can fix it?**
7. The command “come boldly.”
8. Approach him boldly in your time of need.

IV. **Lie #3 You deserve to be happy**

A. We really don’t want this one to be a lie but the fact is we don’t want it to be true.
1. Yet we make decisions on it all the time.
2. **We see it in the Bible:** Eve thought that by eating the forbidden fruit that she would be happy.
3. Cain thought killing Abel would make him happy.
4. Joseph’s brothers thought selling him into slavery would make them happy. Judas thought thirty pieces of silver would make him happy.
5. Doesn’t God want me to be happy?
6. If you believe that God wants you happy you will believe that whatever makes you feel happy is right and anything that doesn’t make you happy is wrong.
B. Second, you will start thinking God exists to serve you.
1. Since happiness is the highest good God’s job is to provide circumstances that make you feel good.
2. But God doesn’t exist to serve you but you exist to serve him.

C. Third, there is a real chance you will walk away from God.
   1. If your circumstances don’t work out in your favor you will blame God for not making you happy.
   2. When you believe you deserve to be happy you will begin to embrace lies about finding happiness.

D. The harder you chase after happiness, the more elusive it becomes.
   1. It turns out the pursuit of happiness is a shortcut to misery in a clever disguise.
   2. Ultimately, pursuing God brings true happiness and joy.
   3. Happy people are not happy because God gave them the right set of circumstances to be happy.
   4. But you can replace those lies with the truth of God’s love for you.