

# SATAN'S **PLAYBOOK**



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# WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING

Trick them into trusting a hostile critic of the Church who frames attacks as innocent questions.

Ka'eo trusts that John is a well-intentioned seeker with doubts, when in reality, John benefits from destroying others' faith.

## ANTIDOTE

*Avoid those who sow contention and division. Consider ulterior motives, and seek to "recognize them by their fruits."*

2 Nephi 28:21; D&C 4:4; D&C 58:26-28

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# ALL IS WELL IN ZION

"Pacify" church members into believing that things are "good enough" so they won't "be anxiously engaged" in good causes.

The Hansens decide not to invite the new family over for dinner because they're active members and probably have plenty of friends.

## ANTIDOTE

*Be "anxiously engaged in a good cause" and "bring to pass much righteousness" by using agency and not being "compelled in all things."*

Matthew 7:15-23; Romans 16:17-18

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# FALSE IDENTITY

Convince them that their divine identity is surpassed by worldly identifiers which will "stymie (their) progress."

Jane rejects the Prophet's advice because it is contrary to the beliefs of her political party.

## ANTIDOTE

*Avoid adopting any identity that displaces, replaces, or takes priority over your true identity.*

Psalms 82:6; President Nelson May 15, 2022

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# FAITH VS SCIENCE

Convince them that science and faith  
are incompatible.

José doubts that God created the  
Universe after learning about the Big  
Bang.

## ANTIDOTE

*"Embrace all and every item of truth,  
without limitation." Remember the  
scientific method and revelation are  
complementary.*

D&C 88:118; Joseph Smith PWJS p420



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# EVERYONE IS DOING IT

Tempt them to sin by rationalizing that everyone is doing it.

Rachel decides to go watch an inappropriate movie because her friends from church are going.

## ANTIDOTE

*Hold fast to eternal truths and remember that "50 million people can be wrong-- totally wrong."*

1 Nephi 8:28, 33–34; President Nelson (Let Your Faith Show)

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# SIN NOW, REPENT LATER

Reassure them that they can sin now  
and simply plan to repent later

Thomas disregards the law of chastity  
during high school with a "calculated  
plan" to repent before his mission.

## ANTIDOTE

*Choose to repent daily with "real intent" to  
experience the full power of Christ's  
atonement.*

Moroni 6:8; Sister Craven (Do What Mattereth Most)

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# EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY...

Deceive them into thinking that their actions don't have eternal consequences.

Vanessa has begun smoking with her friends. She doesn't believe her choices will affect her later in life, let alone in the eternities.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "belief in (life after death) encourages one to obey the commandments, repent of sins...and do the other things that bring joy."*

2 Nephi 28:7; Elder Asay (If a Man Die, Shall He Live Again?)

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# WICKEDNESS EQUALS HAPPINESS

Trick them into finding "happiness in doing iniquity."

Jessica is feeling down and turns to alcohol to cope with her challenges.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "wickedness never was happiness" and that the commandments lead to a "blessed and happy state"*

Alma 41:10; Heleman 13:38; Mosiah 2:41



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# MIRACLES HAVE CEASED

Explain that miracles, prophecies, and gifts of the Spirit are a thing of the past and no longer happen today.

Dmitri decides not to ask for a blessing of healing because miracles only happen in the scriptures.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "God is the same yesterday, today, and forever," and "it is by faith that miracles are wrought."*

Mormon 9:7-28; Moroni 7:29,33-38

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# BEYOND HOPE

Convince them that they've gone too far into "forbidden paths" for Christ to save them.

Sarah no longer attends church because she feels unworthy due to her mistakes.

## ANTIDOTE

*Understand that "it is not possible for you to sink lower than the infinite light of Christ's Atonement shines." (Holland)*

1 Nephi 8:28; Elder Holland (Laborers in the Vineyard)

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# PERFECTIONISTIC MINDSET

Tell them that God expects them to do all the things and live a perfect life in order to be worthy of his love.

Kari won't watch General Conference because she feels she can't live up to every piece of counsel given.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "men are that they might have joy—not guilt trips!" and that "the Lord will bless us according to our deeds and the desires of our hearts."*

2 Corinthians 12:9-10; President Nelson (Perfection Pending)

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# TURNING A MOAT INTO A BEAM

Blind them to church leaders' strengths by directing their focus to the imperfections.

Harry disregards the prophet's counsel because of mistakes prophets have made in the past.

## ANTIDOTE

*Trust that the "Lord sees his servants perfectly" and has chosen them to lead despite their imperfections. OR chosen them "for a wise purpose"*

3 Nephi 14:3-5; Mosiah 2:10-11; President Eyring  
(The Lord Leads His Church)



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# WE NEED NO MORE

Convince them that they "have got a bible" already, so no added scripture is needed.

Ralph doesn't believe in the Book of Mormon because the Bible is all he needs.

## ANTIDOTE

*Know that God gives "continuous revelation" to those who seek. Additional books of scripture show His love for His children in "every nation of the world."*

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# COMMANDMENTS ARE RESTRICTIONS

Trick them into thinking that the commandments are restrictions from living a fun, exciting life.

Mandy believes that following the standards of modesty prevent her from having fun and fitting in with her friends.

## ANTIDOTE

*Learn "to see obedience not as a punishment but as a liberating path to our divine destiny."*

Mosiah 2:41; Elder Uchtdorf (He Will Place You on His Shoulders and Carry You Home)

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# CRIPPLING QUESTIONS

Scare them into thinking that questions are wrong and proof of a weak testimony.

Fredrick has a question about church history, but keeps it to himself because he doesn't want to sound like a doubter.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "questions are good" and that the Lord has promised us that he will "give liberally to them that asketh."*

1 Nephi 4:34; Sheri Dew BYU Devotional

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# TRUST IN THE ARM OF THE FLESH

Teach them to rely solely on their own strength because "every man prospers according to his own genius."

Ava has a busy schedule and has little time for spiritual things. She fails to notice the daily blessings from God.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that when we depend only on ourselves, we are left to our own strength, but through Christ we "can do all things."*

Alma 30:17; Helaman 4:13; Phillipians 4:13



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# DISCOUNTING THE SPIRIT

Convince them that their spiritual experiences were not real, but simply the "effect of a frenzied mind."

Rachel decides that the good feeling she felt at girls camp was not the Spirit, but simply the result of having a fun time with friends.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "the adversary's design is to distract us from spiritual winesses, while the Lord's desire is to enlighten and engage us in His work."*

Alma 30:16; Elder Rasband (Lest Thou Forget)

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# NO NEED FOR ORGANIZED RELIGION

Teach them that organized religion is corrupt and a hinderance to their own spirituality.

Nathan doesn't attend church because he thinks that all the rules and traditions in organized religion are completely unnecessary.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that the Lord has commanded us to "meet together oft" because "where two or three are gathered... there am I in the midst of them."*

3 Nephi 18:22; Matthew 18:20; (Strength and Safety Through Gathering BYU Devotional, Stephen Owens)

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# HEARTS UPON RICHES

Distract them from the gospel with the flashy riches of the world.

Caleb's life is built on his popularity. He doesn't need God because his status among his friends is what gives him happiness.

## ANTIDOTE

*Avoid giving "highest priority to the riches, power, and the praise of the world" because those will never last.*

Mosiah 12:29; Elder Christofferson (Sustainable Societies)

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# CONFESS NOT HIS HAND

Persuade them to rationalize away the blessings of God and "less astonished at a sign or a wonder from heaven."

Anders has been blessed with a wonderful family and great friends, but instead of being grateful he complains about what he doesn't have.

## ANTIDOTE

*Choose to live in a way that brings the Spirit in your life so you can see "the hand of God more clearly."*

3 Nephi 2:1; President Eyring (O Remember, Remember)



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# SHOW ME A SIGN

Convince them that the gospel isn't true unless God shows them a miraculous sign according to their own timing.

Rebecca decided she will believe that God is really there only if he heals her little sister from her sickness.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that in order for miracles to happen, "first we act in faith; then the power comes--according to God's will and timing."*

Alma 30:44; Elder Renlund (Abound With Blessings)

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# THE FUTURE IS HOPELESS

Scare them into thinking that there is no hope for the future and that society is beyond saving.

Paul is paralyzed with fear and finds it difficult to move on in his life when he sees how wicked the world is becoming.

## ANTIDOTE

*Even though wickedness is increasing, our prophet "is optimistic about the future" and the righteous will have "the power of God in great glory."*

1 Nephi 14:12-14; President Nelson (Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives)

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# PROPHETS ARE OUT OF TOUCH

Convince them that the prophet is old and uninformed so their counsel is outdated.

Katie doesn't believe the prophet's advice is valid because he is too old to understand the modern problems of her life.

## ANTIDOTE

*"man of judgment who isn't blown about by every wind of doctrine" "whoso receiveth prophets receiveth me"*

D&C 84:36; President Hinckley (60 minutes)

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# GOD IS PUNISHING YOU

Trick them into thinking that when bad things happen to them it is a punishment from God.

Tyler has been struggling with depression for the last year and worries he's being punished for mistakes he's made in the past.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that suffering is part of our fallen world but that Christ "suffered what you suffer so that He would know how to lift you up."*

John 9:3; President Eyring (Tested, Proved, Polished)



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# EASY SPIRITUALITY

Make them believe that a testimony should come easily with minimal effort.

Samuel doesn't believe in the power of the Book of Mormon, but hasn't read it for himself.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "the Lord loves effort" and in order to gain a testimony, we need to "exercise a particle of faith."*

Alma 32:7; Sister Jones (An Especially Noble Calling)

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# YOU ARE THE EXCEPTION

Convince them that the commandments don't apply to them because of their unique circumstances.

Taylor knows she should love her neighbor, but doesn't believe that charity should extend to the rival high school sport teams.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that right now "we see through a glass darkly" but that someday we will "see that His laws are a manifestation of His love for us."*

1 Corinthians 13:12; Sister Stephens (If Ye Love Me Keep My Commandments)

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# MEN ARE SUPERIOR

Teach them that women are inferior in the church because they have no claim on priesthood keys.

Noah uses his priesthood keys to justify his "unrighteous dominion" over his family.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "the powers of heaven cannot be..handled only upon the principles of righteousness." Doing otherwise is against God's commands.*

D&C 121:36,39

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# GOD IS DEAD

Trick them into thinking that God does not exist because why would a loving Father allow awful things to happen.

Ava doesn't see how God is real if he allowed her mother to die in a car crash.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "mortal life is inherently unfair" but "Jesus Christ came to earth and 'absorbed' all unfairness" so we can feel peace even in difficulty.*

Elder Renlund (Infuriating Unfairness)



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# THE CHURCH IS SEXIST

The Church is sexist because only men have the priesthood and leadership roles.

Olivia is antagonistic to the church because of the small representation of women in general conference.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "all are alike unto God" and "the heavens are just as opened to women endowed with God's power...as they are to men who bear the priesthood."*

President Nelson (Spiritual Treasures); 2 Nephi 26:33

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# ODD ONE OUT

Persuade them that all church members need to be the same and they are the one that doesn't belong.

Sarah feels like an outsider in her YW class because she is the only one without a priesthood holder in the home.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "it is by divine design that not all the voices in God's choir are the same. It takes variety to make rich music."*

2 Nephi 26:33; Elder Holland (Sons Sung and Un-sung)

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# FALSE OBJECTIVITY

Trick them into believing that they are being unbiased by looking at anti-mormon sources.

Rachel has doubts about the church so she views anti-mormon literature to get a fuller understanding.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "you don't have to wonder about what is true...through personal revelation you can receive your own witness."*

President Nelson (Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives)

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# OVERWHELM WITH CRITICISMS

Persuade them to leave the church by overwhelming them with every attack ever stated against the church.

Antonio is starting to doubt the gospel because he doesn't have an answer to every accusation his friend throws at him.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that it's okay to not "know the meaning of all things" but that answers will come "line upon line, precept upon precept."*

1 Nephi 11:17; 2 Nephi 28:30



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# LOVING THE SIN WITH THE SINNER

Convince them that in order to love the sinner, they need to embrace the sin.

Lauren doesn't say no to smoking with her friend because she doesn't want to seem judgmental.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "our religion is not one of rationalization..but a religion of redemption."*

Elder Christofferson (Love of God)

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# CHERRYPICKING COMMENTS

Blind them to the positive words of the church leaders by focusing on the offensive.

Pauline decides to leave the church after her Relief Society gave a lesson with several offensive comments.

## ANTIDOTE

*Remember that "imperfect people are all God has to work with" and that we should choose not to "condemn" others because of their imperfections.*

Elder Holland (Lord, I Believe); Moroni 8:12