Bernie Madoff is infamous for orchestrating one of the largest financial frauds in U.S. history, swindling thousands out of billions of dollars. His Ponzi scheme eventually collapsed, leading to his arrest and imprisonment. With the exception of some small court-ordered payouts, the victims suffered a total loss on their investments.

As most people know, deception is a common tool used to exploit others, especially the disadvantaged and vulnerable. This practice can be seen in many industries. For decades, the tobacco business aimed its deceptive marketing methods at vulnerable populations, such as young people and low-income communities. These practices included downplaying the health risks of smoking and promoting cigarettes as glamorous or trendy. This exploitation led to widespread addiction and many health issues among these targeted groups. Similarly, some pharmaceutical companies have fueled the opioid crisis by aggressively marketing prescription painkillers, downplaying their addictive nature, and encouraging overprescription. This, too, has led to widespread addiction and many overdoses and deaths, particularly among underprivileged populations.

These sinful tactics originated with the archdeceiver, Satan, who has perfected his craft and successfully led billions astray. Believers are not immune to his attacks; we are not completely shielded from his temptations, so how are we to face his schemes and deceptions? How do we overcome him? How do we gain victory while living in the great controversy? This week’s lesson will focus on the power of God’s Word as we face Satan’s attacks.
Write out Matthew 4:1–10 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out verse 4. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in the primary passage. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

When was the last time you internalized and memorized Scripture?

What’s the difference between knowing truthful statements, such as scriptures, and knowing the Truth—Jesus?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC09-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How can you use God’s Word to combat everyday challenges and temptations?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC09-4
inSpect

What relationship do the following verses have with Matthew 4:1–10?

Hebrews 4:12, 15  
2 Timothy 3:16, 17  
John 1:1–3, 14  
Psalm 119:11  
John 17:17  
Ephesians 6:17

What other verses come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from Matthew 4:1–10.
If Jesus is the Word made flesh, how should this impact your devotional time and the way you approach Bible study?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through the text of the week?

Prayer Response:

Meditate on Matthew 4:1–10 again and see what else you can learn about Jesus.

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC09-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the passage, what are some personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are some practical applications you must make in your school, family, workplace, and church life?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/GC09-7
inQuire

Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How can we see through Satan’s deceptions, especially if they’re cloaked in biblical lingo?

How can we discern between genuine truth and falsehoods in today’s world?

In what ways has the concept of truth become distorted today?

In what ways have you experienced or seen the transforming power of God’s Word, whether in your own life or in someone else’s?

What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Word made flesh?

Why is it important to build our lives on God’s Word? What does it look like in practice?

How has God helped you find victory when you were tempted?

How can you share God’s Word through your social media platforms?