

The Gospel of *Matthew*

Session 4



These notes have been put together to be used in Life Groups alongside the Sunday teaching at Wavertree. This week we are looking at Matthew 10 and how Jesus has compassion for the crowds, calls us to pray, and sends us out with His authority.

do not give the devil a foothold...

STARTER DISCUSSION: 5–10 minutes

- What part of Sunday's message stood out to you the most — a story, a Scripture, a phrase, or an idea?
- Did anything surprise you, challenge you, or raise questions?

The Spiritual Realm

READ: Ephesians 6:12; Matthew 12:22–29; 1 Timothy 4:1

- How comfortable do you feel with the idea that the spiritual realm is real?
- What dangers arise when Christians: a) blame everything on demons?
OR b) ignore the spiritual realm entirely?

Topos - giving the enemy space

Ephesians teaches believers can give the devil topos—space or opportunity. This does not mean losing salvation but allowing unhealthy spiritual influence.

Causes can include sin, false beliefs, unforgiveness, ongoing destructive habits. Sometimes inherited spiritual patterns. Sometimes through environments or experiences people did not choose.

But there is good news. Matthew teaches us Jesus has authority over:

- our bodies - nature - the spiritual realm

For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.

Matthew 12:27

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.

Ephesians 1:7

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Jesus Power, Our Repentance & Forgiveness

Does anyone in your group have stories of where they know Jesus has set them free from a spiritual stronghold?

Reflective Activity:

- Invite the Holy Spirit to speak to you, is there any space in your life the Holy Spirit is wanting to clean up?
- Is there anything coming to mind that you need to repent of or forgive?

Spiritual issues often require discernment and support from others. Is there someone you could plan to speak with and help you to process or pray further?

DISCIPLING OTHERS:

With people coming to faith the topic of the demons can be challenging to talk about, but we need to tackle it if we want to help new believers access the full freedom Jesus won on the cross.

- How easy do you find discussing these topics?
- What ideas or analogies from this talk could help you discuss this with someone you are discipling?
- Is there anyone that comes to mind who might benefit from this teaching? If so - take time to pray for wisdom and opportunity to approach it.

PRAYER: Close in prayer

Either for one another - for peace, wisdom and Holy Spirit power as you work through anything that has come up personally.

Or for those around you to access the freedom Jesus won for us all.