

Small Group Guide: "The Battle is Real"

Opening Prayer: Begin the session with a prayer, asking God for wisdom and open hearts as you discuss the reality of spiritual warfare and how to navigate it as believers.

Key Takeaways:

1. Spiritual warfare is real, and as Christians, we need to be aware of it.
2. We have a God who loves us and an enemy who hates us, but God is greater.
3. The battle is spiritual, not physical.
4. Jesus has overcome the world and offers us victory.
5. How we respond to Jesus' presence in our lives is crucial.

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor mentioned struggling with how much to talk about spiritual warfare. How do you feel about discussing this topic? Is it something you're comfortable with or does it make you uneasy?
2. Read Ephesians 6:10-12. What does this passage tell us about the nature of our spiritual battle? How can we apply this knowledge to our daily lives?
3. The sermon compared two different responses to Jesus' miracles - one group begging Him to leave and another begging Him to stay. Which response do you relate to more, and why?
4. How can we cultivate "sanctified common sense" in dealing with spiritual warfare? Can you share an example of how you've applied this in your own life?
5. The pastor said, "Not if, but when the enemy comes for you." How does this perspective change how we approach spiritual battles?
6. Discuss the difference between condemnation from the enemy and conviction/discipline from God. How can we discern between the two in our lives?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, be intentional about recognizing areas in your life where you might be experiencing spiritual warfare. Journal about these experiences and pray specifically about them.
2. Choose one aspect of the "armor of God" from Ephesians 6 to focus on strengthening in your life this week.
3. Practice inviting Jesus to "stay" in an area of your life where you may have been resistant. What might this look like practically for you?
4. Share with a trusted friend or family member about a spiritual battle you're facing and ask them to pray with and for you.
5. Memorize 1 John 4:4 as a reminder of God's power over the enemy.

Closing Prayer: Close the session by praying for each group member, asking God for protection, discernment, and strength in spiritual battles. Thank Jesus for His victory over sin and death and ask for His continued presence in your lives.