

Small Group Guide: Spiritual Warfare

2 Corinthians 10

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand spiritual warfare and how to stand firm in His strength.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Share a time when you felt like everything was going wrong all at once. Looking back, could any of it have been spiritual opposition?

Key Scripture

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 - "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Main Takeaways

1. **Spiritual warfare is real** - Once we accept Christ, we become targets for spiritual attack
2. **The battle belongs to the Lord** - We fight with spiritual weapons, not carnal ones
3. **We must armor up daily** - Start each day seeking God first (Ephesians 6:10-18)
4. **Victory is already won** - Jesus has already defeated the enemy; we stand in His victory

Discussion Questions

Understanding Spiritual Warfare (15 minutes)

- 1. Before this message, how would you have defined spiritual warfare?** Has your understanding changed?
- 2. The teaching mentioned that spiritual attacks can come through:**
 - Our thoughts
 - Our emotions
 - Our physical well-being
 - Other people we care about
- 3. Which of these have you experienced?** Share if comfortable.
- 4. Read Daniel 10:12-13.** Daniel prayed for 21 days before receiving an answer. How does this story change your perspective on unanswered prayer?

Identifying Spiritual Attacks (15 minutes)

- 4. The pastor listed several signs of potential spiritual attack:**
 - Anger for little or no reason
 - Worry and anxiety
 - Depression
 - Loneliness or weariness
 - Being argumentative
 - Pressure to do something RIGHT NOW
- 5. Which of these do you struggle with most?** How might recognizing it as spiritual warfare change your response?
- 6. The pastor mentioned that when we're under spiritual attack, we often lash out at others.** Have you noticed this pattern in your life or relationships? How can we break this cycle?

7. Why do you think Satan wants us to respond to spiritual battles with physical/carnal weapons instead of spiritual ones?

Our Spiritual Weapons (20 minutes)

7. Read Ephesians 6:14-18 together. Discuss each piece of armor:

- Belt of truth
- Breastplate of righteousness
- Shoes of the gospel of peace
- Shield of faith
- Helmet of salvation
- Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)
- Prayer

8. Which piece of armor do you need to put on more consistently?

9. The sermon contrasted God's weapons with carnal weapons the Corinthians were using:

- Instead of truth → manipulation
- Instead of righteousness → image of success
- Instead of the gospel → smooth words and eloquent speech
- Instead of faith → perception of power
- Instead of salvation → lording over others
- Instead of God's Word → human schemes

10. Which carnal weapon are you most tempted to use instead of God's spiritual weapons?

11. The pastor said prayer is our mightiest tool but often the last weapon we reach for. Why do you think this is true? What keeps us from praying first?

Paul's Example (15 minutes)

10. Paul was accused of being "bold in letters but weak in person." How did Paul respond to these accusations? What can we learn from his approach?

11. Paul came to the Corinthians in "meekness and gentleness" rather than with force. How does this challenge our cultural understanding of strength and leadership?

12. The sermon mentioned that Paul didn't steal God's glory or claim another person's work. In what areas of life are we most tempted to take credit that belongs to God or others?

Practical Application (15 minutes)

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE to focus on

Option 1: Morning Armor

- Spend the first 30 minutes of each day with God before looking at your phone
- Put on the armor of God (read Ephesians 6:10-18 and pray through each piece)
- Journal about any differences you notice

Option 2: Identify and Combat

- When you feel anger, anxiety, or pressure this week, pause and ask: "Could this be a spiritual attack?"
- Respond with prayer, worship, or Scripture instead of reacting in the flesh
- Share your experiences with an accountability partner

Option 3: Prayer Warriors

- Exchange contact information with 2-3 group members
- Commit to being available when someone texts/calls saying "I need prayer right now"
- Practice praying Scripture (especially Psalms) for one another

Option 4: Stronghold Demolition

- Identify one stronghold in your life (an area of thought or practice contrary to God's truth)
- Find 3-5 Scripture verses that speak truth to that area

- Memorize them and speak them aloud when the stronghold tries to reassert itself

Prayer Time (15 minutes)

Group Prayer Focus:

1. **Confession:** Acknowledge areas where we've fought with carnal weapons instead of spiritual ones
2. **Petition:** Pray for those currently in spiritual battles
 - For marriages under attack
 - For those struggling with anxiety, depression, or anger
 - For perseverance in prayer like Daniel
3. **Thanksgiving:** Thank God that the victory is already won in Christ
4. **Armor:** Pray Ephesians 6:10-18 over each group member

Prayer Partners: Pair up and commit to praying for each other's specific battles this week.

Memory Verse for the Week

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 - "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for the pulling down of strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

Closing Encouragement

Remember: **The battle belongs to the Lord.** You are not fighting for victory; you're fighting FROM victory. Jesus has already won. Stand firm in His strength, put on His armor daily, and don't be surprised when the enemy attacks—it means you're making a difference for the Kingdom.