

The Devil's Battle Tactics
Enemies attack the work of God

Introduction: Priming the pump for tonight's discussion.

- Let's begin with our own observations. What is one thing that stood out to you from the message that you would share with the group? Was there a moment where God spoke to you personally through His Word?

Exploration: Questions to guide our group discussion.

- We began our study this week by looking at a spiritual warfare principle from Ephesians 6:12. Let's review that passage and reflect on the real powers behind what appears to be just a physical attack. Why are Christians automatically outmatched when they fail to recognize the source and terms of the battle? What happens when we fail to realize a spiritual attack, and make the mistake of engaging the enemy in the weakness of our own flesh?
- In our reading we learned that the Devil had three battle tactics. Let's review these and discuss how the enemy may have used these same battle tactics in our own walk of faith. Now that we understand his tactics, what should we do when we see these things appear in our lives? Can you think of any examples where the Devil may have been attacking in these ways?
 - Battle Tactic #1: Infiltration, lies, and Sabotage.
 - Battle Tactic #2: Discouragements, doubts, frustrations, and troubles.
 - Battle Tactic #3: False Accusations and Fear Mongering.
- As Pastor Joel concluded our teaching, he mentioned the need to "suit up" for spiritual battle and referenced the armor of God passage in Ephesians 6:13-18. Let's open our Bibles to this passage and discuss what it means to "put on" the armor. How do we do this each day? Which of these are defensive, which are offensive, and how do they work together to protect from attacks, and to strike blows at the enemy?
- Ultimately, we saw God bring about tremendous victories in difficult circumstances. What confidence do we have as Christians when the Devil attacks? Does it make a difference that we have God on our side? Can we trust God to turn everything that the enemy intended for evil for our good?

Additional Scriptures for Deeper Study:

- Ephesians 6:13-18

Focal Text: Ezra 4-6

- Genesis 50:20
- James 4:7
- John 10:10
- Jude 1:9

Application: How can I apply this to my life this week?

- Is there an area where you have fallen under attack, but perhaps failed to realize that it was indeed a spiritual attack? What has this week's study taught you about reinterpreting those events in your life?
- What specific steps would God have you to take right now in beginning to engage in spiritual battle? How would God have you to practically apply the things that we've learned about this week?
- What one thing from the Believer's armory would God have you to add to your own battle strategy in order to have spiritual success this week? (Hint: faith, truth, prayer, scripture, etc.)