

The Invisible War: Week 1

Small Group Discussion Guide

There Is More Than What You See

Overview

This week's sermon opened a six-week series on spiritual warfare by establishing a foundational truth: there is more happening around us than what our physical eyes can see. The unseen realm is real, not every battle is against a person, and God wants to open our eyes to spiritual reality so we can stand firm in the victory Jesus has already won.

Key Takeaways

- The unseen realm is real. The Bible does not treat angels, demons, or spiritual forces as mythology. They are part of God's creation, and Scripture speaks of them plainly.
 - Invisible does not mean imaginary. Just as Wi-Fi cannot be seen but its effects are evident, spiritual realities are unseen but genuinely present and active.
 - People are not ultimately the enemy. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that our struggle is not against flesh and blood. When we fight each other, we are often playing into the enemy's strategy of division.
 - God is already present in your battle. The story of Elisha and his servant in 2 Kings 6:14-17 shows that God's army was there before the servant could see it. Faith is not always believing God will show up. Sometimes it is recognizing He is already there.
 - The goal of this series is not greater awareness of Satan. It is greater awareness of Jesus and the victory He has already secured.
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Discussion Questions

Opening Question (Ice Breaker)

Have you ever walked into a situation and immediately sensed that something was going on beneath the surface, even before anyone said a word? What was that like?

Digging In

1. Before this sermon, how much did you think about spiritual warfare in your everyday life? Did you tend to think of it as something dramatic and rare, or something that touches ordinary life? Has your thinking shifted at all?
2. The sermon used the illustration of Wi-Fi to describe how something invisible can be very real and actively affecting what is visible. What are some other examples from everyday life that help you understand the idea of an unseen reality?
3. Read Ephesians 6:12 together (Paul describes our struggle as being against spiritual forces rather than against people). The pastor pointed out that Paul uses present tense. We wrestle, not we might wrestle. What does it mean to you that this is described as an ongoing reality rather than an occasional one?
4. The sermon warned against becoming obsessed with or consumed by the unseen realm. The pastor said, "The goal of spiritual warfare is not to become more aware of Satan. It is to become more aware of Jesus." Why do you think that distinction matters? Have you ever seen someone become unhealthily focused on spiritual opposition?
5. Read 2 Kings 6:14-17 together (Elisha and his servant surrounded by the Syrian army, and God opening the servant's eyes to see the heavenly forces already present). What stands out to you most about this story? What does Elisha's prayer, "Open his eyes that he may see," reveal about what the servant's real problem was?
6. The pastor said, "Sometimes faith is not believing that God will show up. Sometimes faith is realizing God is already there." How does that reframe the way you think about a current difficulty in your life?
7. The sermon asked, "Have you been fighting the wrong enemy?" Think about a conflict or a difficult relationship in your life. Is it possible that the real battle is not against the person involved? What might it look like to approach that situation differently with this perspective in mind?
8. Read 1 John 4:4 together (the one who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world). How easy or difficult is it for you to hold onto this truth when you are in the middle of a hard season? What tends to make you forget it?

Going Deeper

9. The pastor said the enemy loves division and that one of his key strategies is getting believers to fight each other. Where do you see this playing out in relationships, families, or churches today? What does it look like practically to refuse to let the enemy use conflict to destroy relationships?
10. The servant in 2 Kings 6 saw the same city, the same morning, and the same circumstances as Elisha, but had a completely different perspective. What shapes the lens through which we interpret our circumstances? What spiritual habits or practices help you see situations more clearly?

Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again.

- **Pray with new eyes.** Each morning this week, pray the simple prayer the pastor closed with: "Jesus, open my eyes." Ask God to help you see what is really happening in your circumstances, your relationships, and your battles.
- **Identify a misplaced battle.** Think of a conflict or frustration in your life where you may have been treating a person as the enemy. Pray and ask God to show you whether there is a spiritual dimension to what is happening. Consider whether a conversation, forgiveness, or a change in approach is needed.
- **Replace fear with faith.** Write down one situation where what you see feels overwhelming. Next to it, write down what you believe about God's character and His presence in that situation. Spend time meditating on 1 John 4:4 and 2 Kings 6:16 this week.
- **Get connected.** If you are not already in a small group, commit to joining one before this six-week series is over. The pastor specifically encouraged this because the conversations that come from this series matter and are best processed in community.

Closing Prayer

Close your time together by praying as a group. You may want to invite members to pray specifically for spiritual discernment, for eyes to see what God is doing, and for protection over relationships and families. Ask God to prepare your hearts for what is ahead in this series.

Next Week: Know Your Enemy -- Satan, demons, and spiritual opposition.