

Small Group Guide

"Know Your Enemy" — The Invisible War, Week 2

Pastor Chad Zudweg

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Open your time together in prayer, asking God for wisdom, discernment, and honest conversation. Remind the group that the goal is not to become experts on Satan and demons, but to grow in faithfulness to Jesus Christ.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SERMON

****1. Satan is a created being, not God's equal.****

Satan is not the dark counterpart to God. He is a created being who rebelled against his Creator. He is powerful, but he is not all-powerful, all-knowing, or everywhere at once. Demons are fallen spiritual beings who joined his rebellion. Their ultimate defeat has already been secured through the cross of Jesus Christ.

****2. The enemy operates through deception, temptation, accusation, and oppression.****

Satan's primary weapons are not dramatic. They are subtle. He questions God's Word, tempts us to distrust God's plan, condemns us for our failures, and works to bring spiritual bondage. Recognizing these strategies helps us respond wisely rather than reactively.

****3. Christians are called to resist, not obsess.****

The biblical response to spiritual warfare is not fear, fascination, or paralysis. It is sober-minded watchfulness, resistance through faith, and submission to God. As Pastor Chad noted, the pattern from James 4:7 is clear: submit to God first, then resist the devil.

****4. Occult practices are not harmless entertainment.****

Tarot cards, Ouija boards, psychics, mediums, and similar practices are not neutral. Scripture consistently warns God's people away from seeking spiritual knowledge or power from sources other than God. The deeper question is always: who are you going to trust?

****5. Jesus is greater.****

The cross was not Satan's victory. It was Satan's defeat. The believer has been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit who lives in every genuine follower of Jesus is greater than any spiritual force in the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Opening Question

(Use this to get the group talking before diving into deeper content.)

- Before this series, how much did you think about spiritual warfare in your daily life? Would you say you leaned more toward ignoring it or being overly focused on it?

Section 1 — Satan Is a Created Being, Not God's Equal

1. Pastor Chad pointed out that many people unconsciously think of Satan as God's equal — a dark force matched against a light force. Where do you think that idea comes from, and how does it affect the way people approach fear, suffering, or evil in the world?

2. Knowing that Satan is a created being with real limitations — not all-powerful, not all-knowing, not everywhere at once — how does that change the way you think about him?

3. Ezekiel 28 describes a being who was created perfect, placed in a position of honor, and then fell because of pride and unrighteousness. What warning does that carry for us personally?

Section 2 — The Enemy's Strategy

4. Pastor Chad described four strategies the enemy uses: deception, temptation, accusation, and oppression. Which of these do you think is most effective in your own life or in the lives of people around you? Why?

5. Pastor Chad made an important distinction between the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the accusation of Satan. He said:

- "The Holy Spirit says: You sinned. Come back to Jesus."
- "Satan says: You sinned. You are a failure. You might as well give up."

Have you experienced both of these? How do you tell the difference in the moment?

6. In John 8:44, Jesus describes Satan as a liar and the father of lies. What are some common lies the enemy uses to pull people away from God, from the church, or from their own sense of identity in Christ?

Section 3 — Can Christians Be Demon-Possessed or Influenced?

7. Pastor Chad drew a distinction between demon possession and demonic influence. He said he does not believe a genuine follower of Jesus can be possessed, but that Christians absolutely can be tempted, deceived, oppressed, and spiritually attacked. Does that distinction help clarify anything for you? Do you have any questions about it?

8. Peter urges believers in 1 Peter 5:8-9 to be sober-minded and watchful, and to resist the enemy firm in their faith. What does sober-minded watchfulness look like in practical, everyday life? What makes it difficult?

Section 4 — Occult Practices

9. Pastor Chad addressed practices like tarot cards, Ouija boards, psychics, mediums, and astrology. These are increasingly normalized in popular culture. Why do you think people are drawn to these things, even people who would not consider themselves spiritual?

10. Deuteronomy 18:10-12 uses strong language to warn against divination, fortune-telling, and communicating with the dead. Isaiah 8:19 frames it as a question of trust: why would God's people seek answers from the dead rather than from the living God? How would you explain this warning to someone who sees these practices as harmless fun?

11. Pastor Chad said that when a medium claims to communicate with a deceased person, what is actually happening is that a demon who has observed that person's life is providing information. How does understanding that reframe the way you think about those experiences?

Section 5 — Standing Firm in Christ

12. James 4:7 gives a two-part pattern: submit to God, then resist the devil. Why do you think the order matters? What happens when people try to resist the devil without first submitting to God?

13. Pastor Chad listed several lies the enemy commonly uses against believers:

- "God doesn't love you."
- "You're too far gone."
- "You'll never change."
- "Your sin defines you."
- "God has abandoned you."

Which of these have you personally wrestled with? How did you — or how are you — fighting back against it?

14. 1 John 4:4 declares that the One who is in believers is greater than the one who is in the world. How does that truth change the posture you bring into spiritual battles — whether those battles are temptation, fear, discouragement, or something else?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice this week:

1. Audit your spiritual diet.

Take an honest look at what you are regularly consuming — entertainment, social media, conversations, habits. Are there areas where you have been giving the enemy a foothold, even unintentionally? Identify one area to address this week and bring it to God in prayer.

2. Renounce and repent where needed.

If you have participated in occult practices — even casually or out of curiosity — take time this week to bring that before God. Confess it, renounce it, and receive the forgiveness and cleansing promised in 1 John 1:9. You do not need to live in fear or shame. You need to walk in the freedom Jesus has already purchased for you.

3. Practice the James 4:7 pattern.

This week, when you face temptation, anxiety, discouragement, or spiritual attack, consciously practice the two-step pattern Pastor Chad highlighted. Before you try to resist anything, pause and submit to God first — through prayer, Scripture, or worship. Then stand firm.

4. Replace lies with truth.

Write down one lie the enemy has been using against you. Then find a specific verse or biblical truth that directly contradicts that lie. Read it aloud daily this week. Bring it to your group next time and share what you noticed.

5. Pray for one another.

Before closing your group time, take a few minutes to pray specifically for each person in the room. Ask God to protect them, give them discernment, and help them walk in the authority they have been given in Christ.

CLOSING THOUGHT

Pastor Chad ended the sermon with a simple but powerful contrast:

"The enemy is a liar. And Jesus is the truth. The enemy accuses. Jesus intercedes. The enemy brings bondage. Jesus brings freedom. The enemy brings death. Jesus brings life."

The goal of studying spiritual warfare is not to become more focused on the enemy. It is to become more dependent on Jesus. Close your group time by reminding one another of that truth, and then pray together.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

James 4:7 — Submit yourselves to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Next Week: Continue the series "The Invisible War"