

WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

DISCUSSION GUIDE 1

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Spiritual warfare isn't just fighting around you, it's fighting over you.

It's more than a physical or emotional battle. There's a spiritual element to the generational patterns, habitual sins, and relentless setbacks you encounter.

In our series, "Weapons of Our Warfare" you'll learn the four weapons necessary in spiritual warfare. As you learn what spiritual warfare is and what it isn't, you'll move from a passive casualty to an active victor in war, and break free from what's holding you back.

It's time to take a stand against the devil and his schemes and take up the "Weapons of Our Warfare".

ITEMS NEEDED

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Small Group Expectations sheet
- ☐ Contact list
- ☐ Nametags (optional)
- ☐ Marker for nametags (also optional)

CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR GROUP ARRIVES

- ☐ Pray for your group
- ☐ Read through the Discussion Guide
- ☐ Refreshments (optional)
- ☐ Clean meeting area
- ☐ Clean bathroom
- ☐ Crack the front door

OPENING (10 MIN)

After a general welcome, say: Let's get started with an icebreaker—

GROWING UP, WERE YOU EVER BULLIED IN SCHOOL AND HOW?

After a discussion, say: A bully on the monkey bars at recess is one thing, but sometimes it can feel like you're being bullied in life. Like there's an unseen force at work trying to bring you down, giving you flat tires, causing family fights, and tempting you to sin.

Scripture tells us there is an enemy called "the devil", and his tactics are called "spiritual warfare". And in our series, "Weapons of Our Warfare" you'll learn the four weapons necessary in spiritual warfare. As you learn what spiritual warfare is and what it isn't, you'll move from a passive casualty to an active victor in war using what the Bible calls the "Weapons of Our Warfare".

But first, let's pray.

OPENING PRAYER (1 MIN)

Host, lead the group in prayer, thanking God for the group and asking God to bless your time together and to protect your group from the evil one.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: THE ENEMY (10-12 MIN)

After a prayer, say: First, spiritual warfare involves an enemy. Let's start with a discussion about who he is.

I'LL ASSIGN A READING TO YOU, READ IT ALOUD FOR US, AND WE'LL ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHAT TITLE AND ACTIVITY ARE ASCRIBED TO THE DEVIL HERE?

2 CORINTHIANS 11:14**JOHN 8:44****2 CORINTHIANS 4:4****REVELATION 12:9****JOHN 10:10****MATTHEW 4:3**

After a discussion, say: God doesn't tell us these titles so we're afraid of the devil. He wants us to know these titles so we can be aware and alert to his tactics. 1 Peter 5:8 says "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

WHICH ONE OF THESE TERMS OR TITLES (OR MAYBE ONE WE DIDN'T COVER) DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU ARE EXPERIENCING, OR HAVE EXPERIENCED?

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: THE OBJECTIVE (7-10 MIN)

After a discussion, say: The Enemy's roles give us a clue to his objective.

CAN SOMEONE READ COLOSSIANS 1:13-14 ALOUD FOR US?

After the reading, say: According to this reading, spiritual warfare is two kingdoms fighting over the same thing: as many as possible. The devil wants to retain as many as possible for his dominion of darkness, and God wants to rescue as many as possible for his heavenly kingdom.

Suddenly, spiritual warfare isn't about making your life inconvenient or your relationships hard. Spiritual warfare has a much bigger objective.

EARLIER WE IDENTIFIED WAYS THAT WE EXPERIENCED THE ATTACKS OF THE DEVIL ACCORDING TO HIS TITLES. HOW DOES THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE GREATER OBJECTIVE FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE (AS MANY AS POSSIBLE) CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK ABOUT THAT ATTACK?

SPIRITUAL WARFARE: THE TACTICS (7-10 MIN)

After a discussion, say: On Sunday we talked about the devil's three main tactics. For the unbeliever, his one tactic is to keep them from hearing the Good News of Jesus (since faith comes by hearing). Then, for the believer, he has two tactics: keep them from telling the Good News of Jesus (since faith comes by hearing) and get them to doubt God's Word (since faith comes by hearing).

IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE SHARING, WHICH DO YOU IDENTIFY WITH THE MOST: STRUGGLING TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT THE RESURRECTION (THE GOOD NEWS) OR STRUGGLING TO BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD?

After a discussion, say: Obviously, this means the first weapon of our warfare is the Word of God. Remember, each time the devil tempted Jesus, Jesus responded by quoting Scripture. Which makes reading and spending time in Scripture critical to our success in spiritual warfare.

TO CLOSE, LET'S SHARE SOME TIPS WITH EACH OTHER! WHAT'S HELPED YOU READ AND SPEND PERSONAL TIME IN GOD'S WORD?

CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)

After a discussion, say: Thank you guys for spending time in our small group. This is one more weapon of our warfare, but that's going to be a discussion for next time. Obviously, we'll pray to get better at reading God's Word, and we'll pray for strength and safety in our spiritual warfare, but—

ARE THERE ANY OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS?

Host, after taking prayer requests, close the group in prayer.

Then, close with an announcement of the next meeting time for your Small Group!