

WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

DISCUSSION GUIDE 2

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—

LET'S BRAINSTORM A LIST—WHAT ARE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE TO DO CONSISTENTLY OR IT WILL GET AWAY FROM YOU? (BRUSHING TEETH, MOWING A LAWN, ETC.)

After a discussion, say: There are a lot of things that we do on a regular basis because it gets bad in a hurry if we neglect it.

As we continue our series *Weapons of Our Warfare*, we're going to talk about our second weapon against the attacks of the devil that's another habit with its own consequences if we neglect it.

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.

THE SECOND WEAPON (5-7 MIN)

After a prayer, say: The second weapon in our warfare is the church.

But let's define this thing called church. The word "church" is an English derivative of the German word *kirche*, which means "gathering house." But before Christianity made its way to Germany, the

word “church” came from the Greek word *ekklesia* which means “the gathering” or “the assembly.” In other words, church isn’t a building, and it’s more than something you do, it’s SOMEONE you’re gathering with! So, the first reason the church is a weapon in our warfare is there’s strength in numbers!

ACCORDING TO THESE VERSES, WHY ELSE IS THERE STRENGTH IN OUR “GATHERING” WITH EACH OTHER? (*Host: The answer we’re looking for is Jesus is present when we gather.*)

COLOSSIANS 1:17-18

EPHESIANS 1:22-23

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

MATTHEW 18:20

TWO ATTACKS AGAINST THE CHURCH (10-12 MIN)

After a discussion, say: Because the devil is an enemy of Christ, and because this is war, it shouldn’t surprise us that the devil cuts and bruises and attacks Christ’s body, that is, our gathering.

CAN SOMEONE READ ACTS 20:28-29 ALOUD FOR US?

After the reading, say: When it comes to the church, the devil has two attacks. One is to attack the body itself.

IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU THINK THE DEVIL MIGHT TRY TO ATTACK THE BODY OF CHRIST? IN OTHER WORDS, HOW CAN HE CAUSE DIVISION OR UHEALTH IN A CHURCH?

After a discussion, say: But if the devil can’t harm the body, he has another tactic.

CAN SOMEONE READ HEBREWS 10:25 ALOUD AND SOMEONE ELSE READ 1 PETER 5:8?

After the reading, say: When a lion prowls, he’s avoiding a herd who can sound the alarm or attack him, he looks for young or weak prey who are isolated from the herd or “the gathering”.

HOW DOES THIS CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK OF GOING TO CHURCH FOR YOURSELF?

HOW DOES THIS CHANGE THE WAY YOU THINK OF GOING TO CHURCH FOR YOUR KIDS?

FINALLY, HOW DOES THIS DISCUSSION MAKE YOU RETHINK THE THINGS THAT KEEP YOU FROM CHURCH?

After a discussion, say: If you’re feeling a bit guilty, take heart, you’re here! Look around, there’s strength in numbers. And look closer, Jesus is here with us.

CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)

We’re going to end our time by praying for the discipline to “not neglect gathering together” in our spiritual warfare. But, before we pray—

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!