WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE

DISCUSSION GUIDE 3

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 a bit of a brainstorming session—

WHAT SORT OF COMMANDS DOES A SERGEANT GIVE TO A PRIVATE IN BATTLE? (KEEP IT CLEAN…)

After a discussion, say: As we wrap up our series *Weapons of Our Warfare*, we're going to talk about how to pray warfare prayers. It's more like than unlike the language a commanding officer would give their soldiers.

WHICH OF THE COMMANDS OF A SERGEANT WE CAME UP WITH WOULD APPLY TO GOD COMMANDING HIS ANGELS TO FIGHT ON OUR BEHALF?

It's an interesting way to think about praying in spiritual warfare. But before we get into today's discussion, 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.

DEFEND (5-7 MIN)

After a prayer, say: The fourth weapon of our warfare is prayer. We all pray in some way, but prayers of warfare sound a bit different. They aren't prayers FOR, they're prayers AGAINST. And there are three words against the evil one we're going to look at together.

The first word we're going to introduce into our prayer vocabulary is the word "defend".

I'LL ASSIGN A VERSE, READ IT ALOUD FOR US AND THEN WE'LL ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US ABOUT GOD DEFENDING US IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

JEREMIAH 50:34	**2 THESSALONIANS 3:3**	**PSALM 91:11**
EXODUS 14:14	**PSALM 34:7**	**MATTHEW 6:13**

After a discussion, say: Let's practice praying for God to defend us. Please repeat after me.

GOD… DEFEND ME… FROM THE EVIL ONE… IN JESUS' NAME… AMEN.

CAST OUT (5 – 7 MIN)

After a discussion, say: Let's get to our next word for warfare prayer. Jesus casts out demons throughout his ministry (Matthew 9:32-33), and he gives his disciples authority to cast out demons (Luke 9:1-2). But it all hinges on the idea of Jesus' authority.

CAN SOMEONE READ MATTHEW 8:5-10 ALOUD FOR US AND SOMEONE ELSE READ LUKE 4:35–36?

WHAT INSIGHT DO THESE TWO PASSAGES GIVE TO CASTING OUT DEMONS?
Host: You're looking for a conversation about the authority of Jesus over all things.

After a discussion, say: Let's practice praying for God to cast out the evil one. Please repeat after me.

GOD… CAST OUT… THE EVIL ONE… IN JESUS' NAME… AMEN.

DISRUPT (5 – 7 MIN)

After a discussion, say: In warfare, you can expect sabotage and espionage. Scrambling radars, jamming radio signals, and cutting communication lines are all part of warfare tactics. This can happen in spiritual warfare as well.

I'LL ASSIGN A VERSE, READ IT ALOUD FOR US AND THEN WE'LL ANSWER THE QUESTION: WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US ABOUT GOD DISRUPTING THE PLANS OF THE ENEMY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

ISAIAH 8:10	**JUDGES 7:19-22**	**EXODUS 14:24**
PSALM 55:9	**EXODUS 23:27**	**DEUTERONOMY 7:23**

After a discussion, say: Let's practice praying for God to disrupt the plans of the evil one. Please repeat after me.

GOD… DISRUPT … THE PLANS… OF THE EVIL ONE… IN JESUS' NAME… AMEN.

After the prayer, say: Hopefully, this series has taken away some of the confusion and fear you might have for the idea of spiritual warfare. In all things, rejoice that Jesus is the name above all names, he is greater than anything or anyone that comes against you, and that he wins. Jesus has triumphed,

as the Apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 2:15, Christ “disarmed the powers and authorities, making a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

CLOSING PRAYER (5 – 7 MIN)

Let’s close our discussion in prayer.

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!