



Life Group Sermon Study

## Call of Duty: Spiritual Warfare

October 21, 2018



# ENGAGE

Break the Ice: (The purpose of these first questions is to help your group open up. Please don't feel like you have to ask each question. You may even have a better question. Once you feel that the group is engaged, move on to the "Inspire" section.)

- Growing up, what were some of your favorite Halloween or dress-up costumes? Why those?
- What did God teach you during the message this weekend? Did anything in particular stand out?

Prayer: Take some time to pray for God's Spirit to speak to your group through His Word.

# INSPIRE

(Since the group may need time to process each question, don't let silence scare you. Try to avoid filling the space with unnecessary explanation or moving on from the question too quickly.)

Spiritual Warfare is war waged by Satan along with His followers, such as demons and evil principalities, as they attack, thwart, harass, and mislead the followers of Jesus Christ. It is real; Satan is at war with Christianity!

1. Do you know what spiritual warfare is all about? Have you experienced spiritual warfare?
  - Do you know Christians who spend all of their energy on this subject to the point of obsession? How does that help or hinder them?
  - Do you know Christians who don't take this topic seriously? How does that help or hinder them?
2. Read Ephesians 6:10-11.
  - Paul, in 2 Corinthians 2:11 said that we can't let Satan outsmart us and that we must be familiar with his evil schemes. What are some of the "devil's schemes" that you see in the world today?
  - In what ways has the devil outsmarted us? In what ways have we outsmarted the devil?
3. An old comedian name Flip Wilson used to say, "The devil made me do it!" What is a healthy balance between blaming the devil and his entourage for all of our ills and dealing with our responsibility for our lives and actions?
  - Read Romans 7:17-20. Where is Paul laying the blame for his actions?
4. We cannot resist the devil by our own human power and works. James 4:7 and Ephesians 6:11, however, give us a three-fold way a Christ-follower can overcome the onslaught of Satan:
  - a. We are to submit ourselves to God. What does this look like in your life?
  - b. We are to resist the devil. What is the best way to do this? (Hint: Matthew 4:3-10)
  - c. We are to put on the whole armor of God. In your spiritual life right now, are you on defense or offense?
5. Read Ephesians 6:17-23.
  - If this passage were a Commander's speech before sending you into spiritual warfare, would it help?
  - How do these words encourage you? Is there a particular part that resonates with you and gives you greater confidence?



# EQUIP

(These questions will challenge your group members to apply the study to their daily lives. It is highly important that you go over this section with your group each week for the group study to be a success. Set aside 15-20 minutes at the end of your study to go over this section.)

Satan will do all he can to bring defeat into our lives. He is constantly battling for the soul of the sinner and for the life of the saint. The devil's work is to deceive us, and he has many subtle devices and many cunning ways by which he does the job. We are wise to take seriously the advice of the Apostle Paul when he says in 2 Corinthians 2:11 that we are not to be ignorant of his devices.

Here is a list of some of Satan's devices. Which one(s) has Satan used to attack you the most?

- Satan lies to me and blinds me from the truth.
- Satan puts evil suggestions into my mind in the things I watch, listen to, and read.
- Satan promotes an unforgiving spirit in my heart.
- Satan tempts me to commit sin.
- Satan has planted a bitter root in my life that is producing hatred and distrust.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Prayer:

Take some time to pray for each group member's vulnerable areas in which Satan is attacking. Pray for the Lord's strength and wisdom. Encourage one another in the Lord.

## Equip Your Mind:

"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."  
(1 Peter 5:8, NLT)