

One: A Study in Ephesians
Small Group Discussion Resource
Ephesians 6:10-20 (Week 1 - Spiritual Warfare)

1. Especially this week, when discussion matters of spiritual warfare, be sure to open in prayer.
2. Did you have any childhood fears or irrational phobias that you now find amusing or silly? Share a funny or embarrassing story about something you were afraid of as a child.
3. Have you ever had a memorable "things that go bump in the night" experience? It could be a spooky encounter, an overactive imagination playing tricks on you, or even a funny misunderstanding. Share your story with the group.
4. Read through the passage, Ephesians 6:10-20, paying special attention to verses 10-12 this week. Does anything immediately stand out to you?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 together, how does this inform your understanding of a spiritual conflict and our role in it?
6. In what ways do you think the cultural portrayal of angels differs from the biblical depiction? How can these popular perceptions of angels influence our understanding of spiritual warfare and the supernatural realm?
7. Discuss the significance of the angelic battle against Satan described in Revelation 12. How does knowing that the enemy is already defeated by the power of God's angels affect our understanding of spiritual warfare and our confidence in facing spiritual opposition?
8. Hebrews 13:2 suggests that some people have unknowingly encountered angels in their lives. How does this idea of potentially encountering angels today affect the way we interact with others and show hospitality? Share any personal experiences or insights you have related to this topic.

9. How does understanding the origin and nature of demons affect our perspective on the spiritual battle we face today? How can this knowledge empower us to stand firm in our faith?
10. In what ways have you personally witnessed the influence of the demonic in our culture? How can we guard ourselves against falling into idolatry or being deceived by the enemy's tactics?
11. Read Acts 5:1-11, the story of Ananias and Sapphira. Reflecting on the story of Ananias and Sapphira, how can we ensure that we maintain wholehearted devotion to Christ and avoid leaving any space for the enemy to gain a foothold in our lives?
12. Reflect on this illustration from Dr. Lutzer at Moody:

“Let’s suppose you woke up one morning and found a half ton of fresh manure on your front lawn. Not only does it smell terrible but it has begun to attract a thick cloud of flies. Every time you try to venture outside the flies begin to swarm around you. How do you get rid of the flies? There’s probably two approaches. First, you could try to catch each fly, one by one. You could name them, classify them, rank them, and figure out who the head fly is, and who his lieutenants are. You could even write papers on “How to get rid of flies”, or “Understanding the hierarchy of flies”, or “Discerning the Flies in Your Family Tree”. Certainly that’s one way to solve the problem. The other way, would be to bust out a shovel and start getting rid of the manure, because when the manure is gone, the flies will go too.”

13. Why is it important for us to take responsibility for our actions and choices, especially when it comes to engaging in practices or beliefs that may open doors to the demonic? How can we become more discerning in identifying such practices?
14. Reflecting on the promise in Romans 8:38-39, how does knowing that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus affect our perspective on the spiritual battle we face? How does it give us confidence and assurance as we confront the enemy?
15. Close in a time of prayer for each other, and possibly any friends and family that come to mind.