

Living New | Week 13

Spiritual Warfare: Battling as a Missionary

[Before you lead this session, it would be wise for you to access and read Chapter 20 “Satan and Demons” in Wayne Grudem’s *Systematic Theology*. You can access audio of Grudem’s lectures on this topic here: <http://archive.scottsdalebible.com/assets/audio/christian-essentials/20070211WGrudem.mp3>

Ask your group members to share something that especially stood out to them, that especially encouraged them, or that they found especially helpful from the message or FONL study material this week. If your group is large, you may only have time for four or five responses.

As you start this session, on a large Post-it, write “Areas of life where we’ve experienced significant, severe opposition” across the top. Write down the responses of the group. Be sensitive in asking why the members of your group have listed what they listed. This may be a vulnerable time for members of your group. But God will use these moments to bond you. Say, “All these things may or may not be direct spiritual attacks from the enemy. But for sure, the enemy wants to use these things to neutralize, confuse, and abuse us.”

Ask someone to open in prayer, being sensitive to the issues listed on the “Significant, severe opposition” Post-it.

Ask someone to read Job 1. As a group, draw out biblical principles about the interactions between 1) God and Satan, 2) Satan and mankind, and 3) God and mankind in light of Satan’s temptations. Write down the principles on a large Post-it. Make sure that one of the principles mentioned reflects God’s sovereignty and authority over Satan.

Print and hand out copies of Martin Luther’s great hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” (found in Week 13, Day 2). Ask you LifeGroup members to read it as you play an audio version of it. On a large Post-it, write “Implications that we are not fighting *for* victory, but *from* victory” across the top. Ask your group members to brainstorm ideas based on Scripture truths and based on the biblical truths found in the hymn. Write down their responses.

Briefly teach through “The enemy’s main schemes: Isolation, Deception, and Accusation” (found in Week 13, Day 3). Ask your group members to share their answers to the following question: “Describe a time in your life when you have heard these kinds of lies from the enemy.”

Read Micah 7:8-9. Ask someone in your group to read aloud through the paragraphs in the section entitled “Overcoming Isolation, Deception, and Accusation” (found in Week 13, Day 3). Ask, “How might you personalize these words from Micah 7:8-9 and John Piper to help you overcome Satan’s accusations?”

As you come closer to your closing time together, on a large Post-it, write “Crafting a Spiritual Warfare Prayer” across the top. Based on what you’ve learned together, ask the members of your group to share short petitions that express warfare prayers. In the space left on the Post-it, write down the prayers that your group suggests. (You’ll have to especially monitor this exercise because we want to make sure that the suggested prayers are consistent with sound theology.) Ask someone to take a picture of this prayer to send to everyone in the group for their own personal use over the next week.

Close your time in prayer. Ask someone to use the prayer you’ve composed together as a basis for the closing prayer.

Consider asking the members of your group over the course of the next week to use the Spiritual Warfare prayer in the Appendix to the lessons. (Note: It can be broken down into smaller segments by praying only 4-5 paragraphs each day of the week.)