

BIG IDEA

Spiritual warfare is walking with the Father in the victory of Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:13, 1 Peter 5:8, Ephesians 1:18-21, Ephesians 2:6, 2 Corinthians 10:4

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

1. If you could have one superpower, which would you choose?
2. The word evil is used about 600 times in the Bible, give or take a few based on the version. What thoughts or images come to mind when you consider the word evil?

BIBLE DISCUSSION

3. Read 1 Peter 5:8. Peter is describing the nature of the evil one and warning us to keep aware. How do you sense and caution against evil influences?
4. Read Matthew 6:13. What do you think this part of the prayer is actually asking of God?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:4. How are the weapons God provides different from the world's?
6. Read Ephesians 1:18-21 and 2:6. What do these passages offer us and tell us about ourselves in relationship with God?

LIFE APPLICATION

7. In his book, "The Screwtape Letters", C.S. Lewis writes: "There are two equal but opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them." Which of these extremes do you find yourself leaning toward? How do we find balance between the two extremes?
8. Spend time looking at the Stronghold chart included in this guide. What strongholds have gotten a foothold in your life? You may want to split up into small groups. Encourage each other by reading the passages associated with each stronghold and pray for one another.
9. When we let the enemy have a stronghold and don't use the weapons we have to demolish them, it wreaks havoc on our lives. It steals our joy and peace. Think about your own life. What are the lies you're up against - the strongholds in your own world?

Spiritual Warfare Prayer Against Strongholds*



Stronghold			Freedom
Prejudice			Unity
Examples	discrimination, bigotry, stereotyping, racism, sexism	Scripture	Romans 2:11, 1 Samuel 16:7, Galatians 3:28, John 17:20-23
Lie	<i>"I am better than that person."</i>		
Bitterness			Forgiveness
Examples	resentment, hate, unforgiveness, anger, violence, revenge	Scripture	2 Corinthians 5:17-19
Lie	<i>"I have power and protection when I don't forgive others."</i>		
Control			Surrender
Examples	manipulation, lack of trust, worry, seeking recognition	Scripture	Matthew 16: 24-25
Lie	<i>"I can control my own life."</i>		
Idolatry			Contentment
Examples	selfishness, greed, apathy, pride, stubbornness, vanity, materialism	Scripture	Matthew 6:25-26
Lie	<i>"If I just had a little more, I would be content."</i>		
Despair			Hope
Examples	hopelessness, self-pity, isolation, addictions, self-harm	Scripture	Psalm 34:17-18
Lie	<i>"Even God has abandoned me."</i>		
Jealousy			Gratefulness
Examples	spitefulness, gossip/slander, betrayal, critical/judgmental spirit	Scripture	Psalm 34:17-18
Lie	<i>"I am entitled to all that I have."</i>		
False Teaching			God's Word
Examples	occult, Ouija board, invoking evil or dead spirits, fortune-telling, astrology, cults	Scripture	John 1:1-5 John 14:6-7
Lie	<i>"What I believe to be true is more trustworthy than God."</i>		

Stronghold



Freedom

Sexual Immorality

Examples	lust seductiveness, fornication, adultery, pornography
Lie	<i>"I am free to satisfy all of my desires."</i>

Purity

Scripture	Galatians 5:13-16, 19-21 Genesis 2:22-25
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Insecurity

Examples	inferiority, inadequacy, timidity, withdrawal, pleasing people/not God, lack of trust/worry, wrong relationships
Lie	<i>"I am less than everyone around me."</i>

Security in Christ

Scripture	Ephesians 2:10 Romans 8:38-39
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Rejection

Examples	seeking acceptance, feeling unworthy, withdrawal, addictions, compulsions
Lie	<i>"I am unlovable."</i>

Acceptance

Scripture	Psalms 139:14 John 3:16
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Deceit

Examples	lying, delusions, rationalizing, wrong doctrine, misuse of Scripture
Lie	<i>"My actions are justified if it gets me what I need."</i>

Truthfulness

Scripture	John 8:32 Psalm 23:1
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Fear

Examples	phobias, compulsions, perfectionism, fear of failure
Lie	<i>"Being afraid keeps me from harm."</i>

Trust in God's Sovereignty

Scripture	2 Chronicles 20:6 Matthew 10:29-31
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Pride

Examples	controlling, boasting, belittling, taking credit, selfishness, vanity
Lie	<i>"I am where I am because of all that I have done."</i>

Humility

Scripture	Matthew 16:24
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My Prayer

I recognize the power you have given me by the shed blood of Jesus to demolish spiritual strongholds in my life. I confess that I have given a foothold to send and I renounced the stronghold of _____.
I claim the truth of _____ by the authority of the name of Jesus Christ. Through your power, I take back the ground I surrendered to the enemy. I pray you will enable me to trust and obey your Holy Spirit so that this area of my life we'll be in conformity to the image of Christ. Amen.

*Taken from Mariner's Church (2011) *Rooted: Connect with God, The Church, Your Purpose*, pgs 103-105