

# BATTLEGROUND

SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS

## Our Relationship with God

**Icebreaker:** When you have a disagreement with a family member, do you usually respond with fight, flight, or freeze? Talk about your choice.

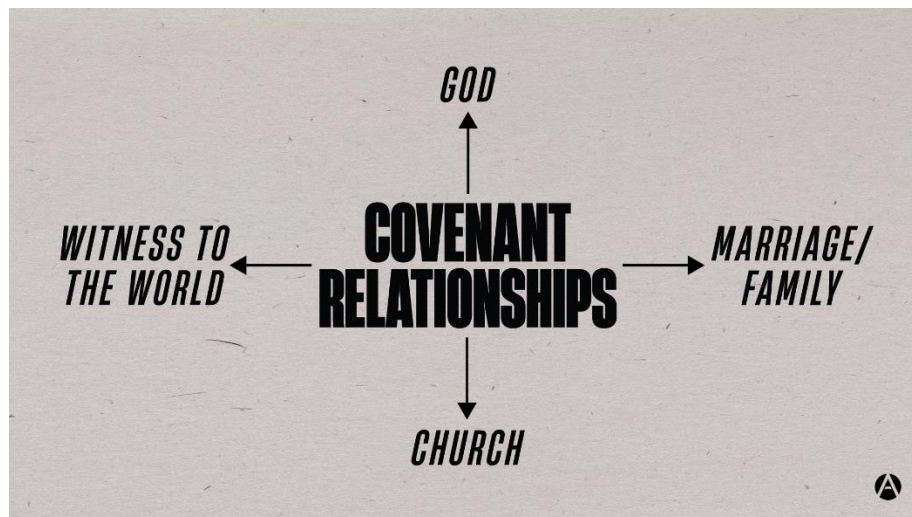
**Worship:** Check out the worship resources we have available on [Lifegroupleaders.com](http://Lifegroupleaders.com). You will find playlists available on Spotify, YouTube and Vimeo. New set list available: [Worship Playlist 12](#).

Tremble | Mosaic MSC

Is He Worthy | Chris Tomlin

How Deep the Father's Love | Austin Stone Worship

**Review:** This week, Jimmy kicked off our new series called Battleground—a series on spiritual warfare. Jimmy shared with us the following diagram, identifying 4 key covenant relationships in the life of a believer: God, Marriage/Family, the Church, and our Witness to the World. We'll be talking about these four areas in the coming weeks.



### Read and Discuss:

Read: **Ephesians 6:10-12** together and discuss the following questions:

1. Can you remember and share about a moment or situation that you may have wrongly identified your enemy or opposition? (Ex: a friend, spouse, co-worker, public personality)
2. How would you have handled the situation differently if you had been more aware of the enemy's attacks in the moment?

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## Read and Discuss:

Read through this chart comparing Jesus with the devil, then read **James 4:4-8a** together and discuss the following questions.

JESUS	THE DEVIL
<i>FORGIVES AND HAS POWER OVER SIN (LUKE 7:48-50)</i>	<i>TEMPTS INDIVIDUALS TO SIN (MATT 4:1-11)</i>
<i>CONQUERS DEATH AND GIVES ETERNAL LIFE (JOHN 10:28)</i>	<i>SEEKS TO STEAL, KILL, AND DESTROY (JOHN 10:10)</i>
<i>TEACHES TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS (EPH 4:21)</i>	<i>DECEIVES AND LEADS PEOPLE ASTRAY (2 COR 11:14)</i>
<i>PROVIDES SALVATION (ACTS 4:12)</i>	<i>PROMOTES BONDAGE AND ENSLAVEMENT (2 TIM 2:26)</i>
<i>BRINGS PEACE AND RECONCILIATION (JOHN 14:27)</i>	<i>INSTIGATES CONFLICT AND DIVISION (REV 12:7-9)</i>
<i>GRANTS AUTHORITY OVER EVIL SPIRITS (MARK 3:15)</i>	<i>MUST SEEK GOD'S PERMISSION (JOB 1:12)</i>
<i>IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL (PS 103:19)</i>	<i>OPPOSES GOD'S WILL (REV 12:7-9)</i>
<i>HIS TIME IS UNENDING (HEB 13:8)</i>	<i>HIS TIME IS SHORT (REV 12:12)</i>
<i>HAS POWER TO PROTECT THOSE WHO ABIDE IN HIM (1 JOHN 5:18)</i>	<i>CANNOT TOUCH THOSE SUBMITTED TO GOD (JAMES 4:7)</i>
<i>HAS RIGHT OF AUTHORITY (MATT 28:18)</i>	<i>HAS NO RIGHT TO AUTHORITY (COL 1:13)</i>

1. What promises do you see rooted in Jesus' character and person? What promises do you see about God from the James passage?
2. What is one place where you currently feel under attack or where you have not resisted the devil?
3. How can we respond or apply these verses to our lives?

**Prayer:** Let's end by breaking up into groups of 2-3 and praying for each other as we share our personal spiritual warfare battles.

**Resource:** Share [this resource](#) with your Lifegroup and commit to spending 30 minutes a day for the next 30 days drawing near to God.

## Our Relationships in Marriage/Family

**Icebreaker:** When you are under stress or just need to unwind, what are some things that you do?

**Worship:** Check out the worship resources we have available on [Lifegroupleaders.com](http://Lifegroupleaders.com). You will find playlists available on Spotify, YouTube and Vimeo.

### Worship Playlist 4

This is Amazing Grace | Phil Wickham

See a Victory | Elevation Worship

Do It Again | Elevation Worship

**Review:** Welcome to week 2 of our spiritual warfare series. Remember, Ephesians 6:12 says, “our battle is not against flesh and blood.” We hope you’ve joined the challenge to draw near to God for 30 days, using this [resource](#) as a reminder. (Leaders, share this link with your Lifegroup members if you haven’t already done so.)

Let’s read the key scripture together, James 4:6-8b.

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” SUBMIT therefore to God. RESIST the devil and he will flee from you. DRAW NEAR to God and HE will draw near to you.

Ask someone to read this guided prayer or read it together, if everyone has a copy of the resource card.

“God, I repent of pride in my life and I HUMBLE and SUBMIT myself to you. From this posture, I RESIST the attacks of the enemy against my relationship with you, my family, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and my witness to the world. And, as I DRAW NEAR to you, open my ears to hear and give me grace and power to obey your word. Amen.”

Today we are going to look at the enemy’s tactics, especially against marriage and family, and a divine response strategy.



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## Read and Discuss:

Read **Genesis 3:1-13** together and discuss the following questions:

1. What are the attacks of the enemy you observed in this passage?
2. Can you think of a time when you experienced similar attacks from the enemy?
3. What were the effects of listening to the enemy's voice?
4. Blame and shame are two weapons the enemy uses to divide us. How have you experienced blame and shame from someone close to you? Have you used blame or shame against someone you care about?

## Read and Discuss:

Read **Genesis 45:1-15** and **Genesis 50:15-21** together and discuss the following questions:

1. How do you see restoration happening in this family through Joseph's response to his brothers?
2. How does Joseph view God's divine plan versus the enemy's tactics based on these passages?
3. Where is God inviting you to respond like Joseph in relationships where you may have been hurt?
4. Does remembering Ephesians 6:12, "Our battle is not against flesh and blood" change how you treat your family or other relationships?

**Prayer:** Let's break up into groups of 2-3. Take a moment to wait on the Lord individually and ask Him who you may need to forgive and where you need to repent to God and others. Where do you need to remember and trust that God is at work for your good especially in places where you have felt attacked by the enemy? Share briefly with one another for accountability and pray together.

## Our Relationships with The Body of Christ

**Icebreaker:** What is one food that you would eradicate from the earth?

**Worship:** Check out the worship resources we have available on [Lifegroupleaders.com](https://lifegroupleaders.com). You will find playlists available on Spotify, YouTube and Vimeo. Or use these songs below that can be found wherever you listen to music.

Reign Above It All | The McClures

House of Worship | Brandon Lake

Is He Worthy | Chris Tomlin

**Review:** Welcome to week 3 of our spiritual warfare series. Remember, Ephesians 6:12 says, “our battle is not against flesh and blood.” We hope you’ve joined the challenge to draw near to God for 30 days, using this [resource](#) as a reminder. (Leaders, share this link with your Lifegroup members if you haven’t already done so.)

Let’s read the key scripture together, James 4:6-8b.

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Today we are going to look at the enemy’s tactics, especially against the unity of the Church and a divine response strategy.

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## Read and Discuss:

**Background:** In the book of Revelation, Jesus sends 7 letters to the specific churches encouraging them, warning them of places where they are missing it, and encouraging them on how to remain faithful within their specific local body.

**Read** together the letter to the church in Smyrna in **Revelation 2:8-11** that Zach spoke about this Sunday. Discuss the following questions:

1. What were the devil's schemes for this specific church??
2. What were they encouraged to do to combat these schemes according to Jesus?
3. What were Jesus' admonitions and promises to this church? How were they encouraged to make it?

Now think about your specific Lifegroup. At Antioch we believe that each of our Lifegroups is like a mini church. We are called to fellowship, share the Word, meet the needs of others, etc...

4. What do you think might be the schemes of the enemy for our specific Lifegroup? How might the devil try and bring disunity in our Lifegroup?

**Read Ephesians 4:25-32** together and discuss the following questions:

5. How does Paul say to live together in community?
6. What specific commands that he lays out relate to healthy life within a church community today?
7. How do practicing these things contribute to unity within a church body?

**Prayer:** Let's break up into groups of 2-3. Share one way that you need the body of Christ to come around you in this season of your life. Pray for each other's needs and, if possible, try to think how your group can practically be a part of answering the prayers that you are praying for each other.

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## Our Witness in the World

**Icebreaker:** Share about the first formal job you had as a teenager or young person. Relate to the group about one experience you had on the job or something you learned from it.

**Worship:** Check out the worship resources we have available on [Lifegroupleaders.com](http://Lifegroupleaders.com). You will find playlists available on Spotify, YouTube and Vimeo.

[Worship Playlist 13](#) – NEW!

The Worship Medley | Tauren Wells

Worthy | Elevation Worship

Fresh Wind | Hillsong Worship

**Review:** Welcome to week 4 of our spiritual warfare series. Remember, Ephesians 6:12 says, “our battle is not against flesh and blood.” We hope you’ve joined the challenge to draw near to God for 30 days, using this [resource](#) as a reminder. (Leaders, share this link with your Lifegroup members if you haven’t already done so.)

Let’s read the key scripture together, James 4:6-8b.

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

SUBMIT therefore to God. RESIST the devil and he will flee from you. DRAW NEAR to God and HE will draw near to you.

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“God, I repent of pride in my life and I HUMBLE and SUBMIT myself to you. From this posture, I RESIST the attacks of the enemy against my relationship with you, my family, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and my witness to the world. And, as I DRAW NEAR to you, open my ears to hear and give me grace and power to obey your word. Amen.”

Today we are going to look at the enemy’s tactics, especially against our witness in the world, and a divine response strategy.

### Read and Discuss:

Read **Matthew 28:16-20 – The Great Commission**. This is a very familiar passage but read it in light of the topic of spiritual warfare and our witness in the world. Discuss the following questions:

5. Reflect on Jesus' statement, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
  - a. What does this mean for us as His followers?
  - b. How does recognizing Jesus' authority empower us in spiritual warfare?
  - c. Read Luke 10:19-20. How does Jesus empower His disciples with authority over spiritual forces? How does this passage complement our understanding of Jesus' authority in Matthew 28:18?

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6. Put yourself in the shoes of one of the disciples hearing Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations. What doubts or uncertainties might arise within you about your ability to fulfill this commission? How do you grapple with these doubts while striving to obey Jesus' call?
7. What promises does Jesus make as he sends his disciples into the world? In what ways does the assurance of Jesus' continual presence strengthen your faith and resolve in fulfilling the Great Commission?
8. How does spiritual warfare come into play in our day-to-day lives based on the command of Jesus to go and make disciples?
9. Think about your life today – What is the major warfare against you in being a witness to the world?

## Read and Discuss:

**Background:** As Jesus gives the Great Commission to the disciples, He is caught up into heaven and now the disciples are to wait for the Holy Spirit to come before going to bear witness to who Jesus is in the world. The book of Acts is the beginning of this Great Commission fulfillment that Jesus gave to go and witness to the world and make disciples. They encountered much warfare as they shared about Jesus. On one occasion, the disciples were brought before the Jewish council and told to stop bearing witness of Jesus. As you read this story, consider the spiritual warfare and how Peter and John responded.

Read **Acts 4:1-21** together and discuss the following questions:

5. What happens when we witness about Jesus in the world? Why might this upset certain powers, principalities, and rulers?
6. What was the main tactic of the council to stop the disciples? What is the enemy's main tactic to stop you from witnessing to the world?
7. What was your favorite part about how Peter and John responded? What are a few principles that we can adopt from their response?
8. Think about how the promises of Jesus within the Great Commission might have influenced the words of Peter and John before the Sanhedrin. What words of Jesus might you need to hold on to as you go witness in the world? As a group share favorite scriptures that embolden you to witness in the world!

**Prayer:** Let's break up into groups of 2-3. Take a moment to wait on the Lord individually and ask Him where you might begin or continue to witness to the world in your day-to-day coming and going. Pray for each other the words of Paul in Ephesians 6:19 to fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.

**Resource:** For further study, consider watching this video before your discussion: [Bible Project - Witness](#)