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**SUPERNATURAL – *Spiritual Warfare***

JULY 31, 2022

**KEY POINTS:**

**What does the devil do?**

• He blinds the minds of unbelievers

• He steals God’s word from you

• He sets traps to ensnare you

• He fights to stop you

• He plans to destroy you

What you see is not all there is:

• You are not alone in your battles

• Your prayers are more powerful than you know

• If you don’t know God’s Word you’re vulnerable

• We do not fight for victory; we fight from victory

**ICE BREAKERS:**

• What outward evidence can you attribute to the reality of spiritual warfare?

• In what ways has our thinking about the supernatural been influenced more by movies and culture rather than by God’s Word?

**CONNECTING:**

1. How often do you think about the unseen spiritual battle that is going on around you? What are some of the unseen realities of which we need to be more aware? Do you tend to err in overemphasizing or underemphasizing the devil’s existence? What are some reasons we may underemphasize the devil’s existence? What are the dangers inherent in overemphasizing spiritual warfare?

2. In what way is the Christian life like a battle? How often are you engaged in spiritual warfare? Where is the battle fought? Why is it important to know our enemy? What part does prayer have in spiritual warfare? How has Christ already won the victory over the devil? Describe what it means to fight *from* victory?

3. **Read 2 Kings 6:15-18.**

2 Kings 6:15-18 NLT When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. "Oh, sir, what will we do now?" the young man cried to Elisha. 16 "Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!" 17 Then Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes and let him see!" The LORD opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire. 18 As the Aramean army advanced toward him, Elisha prayed, "O LORD, please make them blind." So the LORD struck them with blindness as Elisha had asked.

Describe a time when you realized God was doing something, spiritually, that you couldn’t see with your natural eyes. (Maybe God was warning you, or speaking to you, or prompting you to do something.)

4. As you reflect on the devil’s goals (see list above), what has the enemy done, recently, to hinder God’s work in you? What are the spiritual weapons God has provided us? (see Eph 6:10-18) Which ones do you need to implement more often in order to defeat the enemy?

5. God has blessed you with spiritual armor and weapons that are not of this world. Your armor doesn’t cover your backside. Other believers help cover you. Spend some time covering each other in prayer.

**WALKING WITH JESUS:**

1. Each morning this week, prepare for battle by praying through Ephesians 6:11-18 (see handout). Stay alert, throughout the day, to the spiritual battle that is being waged all around you. Ask the Lord to give you the discernment necessary to pray according to His will. Write out some key verses on which to meditate, throughout the day.

2. Think back over your life and recognize the many ways the devil has tried to destroy you (not just physically, but spiritually). Then, ask the Lord to show you the many ways He has protected you and brought you where you are today. Ask Him to give you discernment concerning any schemes, temptations or deceptions that you are currently encountering. Pray and take the appropriate steps to

resist the enemy (see 2 Cor. 10:3-5; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:6-10)

**DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:**

**Read Ephesians 6:10-13**.

Ephesians 6:10-13 NLT A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. 12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

• How do we put on the strength of the Lord? Why do you think Paul used the parts of a Roman soldier’s armor to explain spiritual warfare? With whom or what do we struggle? (12) How are we to fight this unseen enemy? (13) What does wearing the armor of God enable us to do? (13)

**Read Ephesians 6:14-18.**

Ephesians 6:14-18 NLT Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

• Each piece of the armor is descriptive of what Christ has already accomplished for us. In your own words, describe the truth represented by each piece of armor. Are you missing any pieces of armor? How does this make you vulnerable to the enemy? What part does faith play in your experiencing the victory that is already yours in Christ? In what areas does your faith in Christ need to be strengthened?

• What role does God’s word play in spiritual warfare? (17) How will you better arm yourself with God’s word this week? What role does prayer have in defeating the enemy’s schemes? What does it mean to “pray in the Spirit”? How can you stay alert to the enemy’s traps? How often do you pray for other believers? Why is this important? Who do you know that needs to be covered with prayer?

**VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY**:

2 Kings 6:15-18; Dan 10: 12-14; Matt 4:1-11, 13:19-20; John 10:10; 2 Cor 4:4, 10:3-4; Eph 4:26-27; Col 2:15; 2 Tim 2:26; 1 Thess 2:18, 3:5; Heb 2:14; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 3:8, 4:4