

Small Group Discussion Guide - Session 1 A Time for War

Laurie Cole, Priority Ministries

Small Group Leader Notes:

- o If possible, small groups should meet *after* each video.
- You may find it helpful to bring your listening guide to each small group session.
- Depending upon your time, you may not be able to cover every question.
- Spiritual warfare is an unseen war waged by unseen enemies. But the effects and the evidence of spiritual warfare are very often visible. What are some of the ways you see the unseen war and spiritual attack occurring:
 - o In our world?
 - o In our culture?
 - o In our churches?
 - o In your own life?
- 2) Before we talk about specific ways to win this war each day, turn to Eph. 2:1-9 in your Bible, and let's discuss this passage. (Allow them to read it silently from their own Bibles; or, invite someone to read it to the group; or, read it to them from your Bible or from the printed version below.)

Ephesians 2:1-9 (NLT)

- ¹ Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.
- ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.
- ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.
- ⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much,
- ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)
- ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.
- ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.
- ⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.
- ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

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Small Group Discussion Guide - Session 1 (continued)

According to this passage:

- Who and what is under Satan's command and influence? vs. 1-3
- What is the result of remaining under the enemy's control? v.3
- How is it possible to break free from the enemy's power so that we can win the war against our enemy? How and why did God make that possible? *vs. 4-9*
- Since becoming a Christian, what are some of the ways that you have experienced freedom from Satan's power and victory over sin? What evidence have you seen of God's power and freedom in your life?
- 3) In the video, Laurie spoke about "holes in the fences" of our lives that allow the enemy to attack and defeat us. Are there holes in the fences of your life? What is the most common, most repeated way the enemy attacks you?
- 4) What are some practical ways to "mend our fences" and prevent the enemy from defeating us? How do you stand firm against the enemy and prevent him from discouraging and defeating you?

What first step is God encouraging you to take today as a Warrior Princess?

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Small Group Discussion Guide - Session 2 Warfare 101: Top 5 Essentials for Everyday Combat

Laurie Cole, Priority Ministries

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- If possible, small groups should meet *after* each video.
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- Depending upon your time, you may not be able to cover every question.
- 1) Satan/the devil's name means "slanderer," "liar," and "deceiver." What are some of the most common lies and deceptions he uses to attack:
 - You as a woman.
 - You as a Christian.
 - Your relationship with God.
 - Your relationships with others.
- 2) Satan is not only a liar, he also is the Tempter. Let's be honest as we identify and discuss the three specific ways he tempts us (1 John 2:15-16):
 - First, **the lust of the flesh** the cravings of our flesh (ex: impatience, anger, lust, complaining, gossiping, etc.). Share one or two ways the enemy has tempted you in this way *today*.
 - Second, the lust of the eyes what we see and lust for, or covet. How has the enemy tempted you
 in this way recently? What often triggers this type of temptation for you? How do you overcome and
 experience victory over the lust of the eyes?
 - Third, **the boastful pride of life** the appeal to our own desire for independence, recognition, and elevation. In what ways do you often resist God's authority or the authority of others He has placed over you? What are some of the everyday ways we can practice meekness (the opposite of pride)?
- 3) Another tactic Satan uses to defeat us is by placing obstacles in our path (ex: challenging circumstances, discouragement, and sometimes even people) to impede God's plan for our life.
 - What obstacles have you faced this past year that have threatened to defeat you in your walk with God and in your desire to follow and obey Him?
 - What victories have you experienced as you have persevered and followed God?
 - As you think about what God has taught you through your victories and defeats, what spiritual encouragement would you give to someone who is struggling or facing obstacles similar to yours?
- 4) God's Word the Truth is our greatest weapon against the enemy.
 - o What specific truth or scripture do you most frequently turn to when you are under attack?
 - How do you carve out time in your busy schedule to spend time in God's Word consistently?
 - When you do spend time in the God's Word consistently, how does it make a difference in your life, your relationships, and in your ability to resist the enemy?

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Small Group Discussion Guide - Session 3 Dressing for Battle

Laurie Cole, Priority Ministries

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- If possible, small groups should meet *after* each video.
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God has given us a powerful 7-piece wardrobe to enable us to stand firm in everyday spiritual warfare. Let's discuss each piece and how to use it:

- 1. The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14) refers to the whole truth of God's Word.
 - Why is it the most important piece of our spiritual armor?
 - How does the enemy attack and assault the truth in your daily life?
 - How does the culture attack and assault the truth today?
 - What practical steps can we take to stand firm against this assault?
- 2. The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14b) refers to practicing a lifestyle of obedience to God.
 - Even when we are walking in obedience, we will still experience enemy attack. How does obedience protect us?
 - Think of a time in your own life when you were not walking in obedience to God. How did the enemy assault you and seek to prevent you from making things right with God?
 - What differences do you notice in your life when you are walking in obedience to God?
- 3. **The Gospel Shoes of Peace** (Eph. 6:15) refers to sharing the gospel with others, exhibiting the spiritual fruit of peace (Gal. 5:22), and being a peacemaker.
 - Think about someone the Lord is leading you to share the gospel with. How is the enemy seeking to undermine you?
 - When it comes to experiencing and exhibiting peace, what challenges are you currently facing? How can you overcome these challenges?
 - What should you do when you seek to be at peace with someone and they refuse? In circumstances like that, how can you continue to put on the gospel shoes of peace and prevent the enemy from defeating you?
- 4. The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16) refers to specific biblical truths to extinguish Satan's lies and attacks.
 - What specific lies does Satan use to attack you?
 - What specific scriptures and biblical truths do you use as your shield of faith?
 - What practical things do you do to strengthen your faith?

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Small Group Discussion Guide - Session 3 (continued)

- 5. **The Helmet of Salvation** (Eph. 6:17) is the assurance of salvation.
 - Why is the helmet of salvation so important?
 - What can cause us to doubt our salvation and become vulnerable to Satan's attack?
 - o What steps can we take to put on the helmet of salvation every day?
- 6. **The Sword of the Spirit** (Eph. 6:17b) refers to specific scriptures the Holy Spirit gives us to speak aloud when we are under spiritual attack.
 - What intel do we give the enemy through the words we speak?
 - Although he cannot read our mind, how does the enemy often use our words to launch his own attack against us?
 - Share a brief story about how the Holy Spirit gave you a specific scripture to claim and speak when you were under spiritual attack.
- 7. Prayer and Intercession (Eph. 6:18) refers to praying at all times for yourself and for others.
 - Ephesians 6:18 instructs us to pray "at all times and on every occasion." How can you do that? How is that possible?
 - Ephesians 6:18 also says to "be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere."
 How can we become persistent -- and not negligent or forgetful in our prayers for other believers?
 - Right now, let's practice Ephesians 6:18 by sharing our own prayer requests with one another and by praying for each other.

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Small Group Discussion Guide - Session 4 Wisdom for the Warrior Princess

Laurie Cole, Priority Ministries

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- o If possible, small groups should meet *after* each video.
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- Depending upon your time, you may not be able to cover every question.
- 1. What is the #1 way you stand firm against the enemy each day? How do you defeat Satan's attacks against you? Share a victory you have experienced.
- 2. Let's discuss the biblical war veterans and how they inspired us:
 - Joshua inspires us to "be strong and courageous" (Josh. 1:6-7). In what specific way is God encouraging you to be strong and courageous? Joshua also reminds us that "the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Josh. 1:9). How has God shown you that He was with you recently? How did He reveal that He was right there with you?
 - **David** inspires us to pray and to "remember God's great works on [our] behalf" (Ps. 143:5) when we are afraid and under attack. As you look back over your own walk with God, especially during tough times, what great works have you seen Him do on your behalf?
 - Jehoshaphat inspires us to seek God, fast and pray, and to ask others to join us in praying and seeking God. Who do you turn to when you're under attack and why? Who has stood with you in the battle and what difference did they make? Who is God leading you to stand with in their battle?
 - **Nehemiah** inspires us not to fear or be discouraged by the enemy but, instead, to fight. How is the enemy seeking to discourage you or cause you to be fearful? What do you do to overcome the spirit of discouragement?
- 3. Which of the war veterans do you identify with the most and why?
- 4. What happens to our faith every time we experience the Lord's protection and provision? How have you experienced this recently?
- 5. What do you think God loves to hear from us most when we are under spiritual attack?

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