

LET'S DO **Difficult**

A SMALL GROUP STUDY

Session 4: The Struggle Is Real

Wherever there is a battle—a struggle, a fight—there is opposition. You don't have to read far into Scripture before this truth becomes clear; within the opening chapters of the Bible, opposition is already present. Like it or not, there is a real and active force that stands against the purposes of God. Yet this is not a losing battle. The Spirit of God is infinitely greater, overwhelmingly stronger, and far more powerful than any opposition we face. He has already equipped us with everything we need to live as overcomers, even in the presence of evil. But like any powerful weapon, these tools are effective only when placed in capable hands and used with wisdom and understanding. Now is the time to take up the spiritual weapons God has provided, stand ready, and let the enemy see You are prepared to face—and overcome—whatever challenges come your way.

Scripture

Ephesians 6:12 (NIV®)

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Discussion Questions

1. There is a kingdom of darkness opposed to and working diligently to thwart the purposes of God. Do you believe this? Why or why not?
2. Read Ephesians 6:10–20 in your Bible as a group. What practical steps can you take daily to “put on” the full armor of God?
3. How do you currently seek wisdom or guidance in your life?
4. What's a common distraction that pulls you away from focusing on God? How do you currently prioritize time with God in your daily life?
5. Evil is happening in our world. What expressions of this do you currently see in our world and in your community? What can you do to stand against these?
6. Share if you've ever had a time when you felt the palpable presence of an evil spirit. How did it feel? What was the situation? How did you respond?
7. *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”* Matthew 7:15 (NIV®)

Discuss a time when you have experienced the truth of Matthew 7:15. How did you respond? What would you do differently if you were faced with a similar situation again?

Going Deeper

1. Give an example of a time when you came to the end of yourself physically, spiritually, mentally, or emotionally. What was this experience like? Have you experienced God meeting you in a new way after reaching the end of yourself?

2. "Take your stand ..." might mean spiritually, but it also might mean physically standing in a place of resistance to evil. Give an example of a time when you have experienced this or when you have watched someone stand in a difficult place for the sake of God's people and biblical values.

Prayer

Take a moment to say the prayer below aloud together. Then, keep it nearby to read on your own throughout the upcoming week.

Father, thank You for the blood of Jesus Christ, for His body that was broken for us and His blood that was shed for us that we might be forgiven. Forgive us our sins, Lord. We don't say it casually. Holy Spirit, we ask You to help us. If there are parts of our lives and our stories that we have not yielded to You or held in repentance before You, bring them to our awareness. Lord, any evil spirits or demons that have come to harass and torment, we ask that their influence and authority be broken over our lives. In the name of Jesus, let freedom and liberty come—freedom of thought, freedom of emotion, and freedom to think, move, enjoy, and experience this life-assignment You have given us. May any power of darkness be broken over our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.



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