

Small Group Discussion Guide

Spiritual Forces of Wickedness - Obedience Matters

September 27, 2026

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I. Strong in the Lord

— *Read Ephesians 6:10–12 and Luke 10:17–20 aloud.*

Paul reminds us that our struggle is not ultimately against people, but against spiritual forces of wickedness. We are called to **“be strong in the Lord”** and stand firm in His strength. Our confidence is not in ourselves, but in Christ, who gives us the strength to face spiritual opposition.

- **What does it mean in everyday life to be “strong in the Lord” rather than relying only on our own strength? How do you protect and increase your strength in the Lord?**

A. To Be Considered . . .

God is real, He can be known, and He loves us. Scripture also reminds us that spiritual forces of wickedness are real. **Our choices matter**, and genuine faith is shown through obedience and the way we live.

B. The Persistence of Syncretism

— *Read Galatians 5:19–21 aloud.*

Syncretism is blending our faith with beliefs or behaviors that pull us away from God. Following Jesus means more than believing the right things; our faith should shape how we live. Obedience matters because our choices influence our hearts and relationship with God.

- **What are some subtle ways we can compromise our beliefs or blend our faith with ideas, policies, people, agendas, etc., that pull us away from God?**

II. Nothing New Under the Sun

A. Hezekiah's Leadership

Hezekiah gives us an example of a leader who called God's people back to holiness and placed renewed emphasis on Scripture. His leadership reminds us that spiritual strength begins with turning our hearts toward God and taking His Word seriously.

B. Preparation: Physical and Spiritual

— *Read 2 Chronicles 32:1–8 aloud.*

When the Assyrian army came against Jerusalem, Hezekiah prepared both physically and spiritually. He strengthened the city's defenses while reminding the people, *"Be strong and courageous ... for there is a greater power with us than with him."* Faith does not mean we ignore preparation; we do what we can while trusting God to do what only He can do.

- **Hezekiah prepared both physically and spiritually for the Assyrian attack. What can we learn from his example about preparing for difficult seasons in our own lives?**

C. A Fierce Adversary: Fear

— *Read 2 Chronicles 32:18–19 aloud.*

The Assyrians tried to defeat Jerusalem through fear, using threats to “terrify the people and make them afraid.” Fear can still cause us to doubt God and focus more on our problems than His power. We need churches that believe in the power of God and trust Him, even when circumstances seem overwhelming.

- **Fear was one of the enemy's greatest weapons against Jerusalem. What helps you turn your focus from what you fear to the God you trust?**

D. A Powerful Response: Prayer

— *Read 2 Chronicles 32:20–21 aloud.*

Hezekiah and Isaiah **cried out to God in prayer**, and God heard them and intervened. Prayer reminds us that while we should prepare and do what we can, **our ultimate confidence must rest in God**, Who is greater than any battle we face.

- **How has prayer helped you trust God during battles you weren't equipped to handle on your own?**

E. Generational Faith ... Each Generation Must Choose

— *Read 2 Chronicles 32:24–26 aloud.*

Hezekiah experienced God's power and faithfulness but later struggled with pride. When he recognized his sin, he humbled himself and repented. His story reminds us that faith cannot simply be inherited. Parents can model faith and teach Scripture, but each generation must choose to follow God for itself.

- **How can we encourage the next generation to know and follow God while still allowing them to make their own choice?**

Prayer

I choose to put my trust in the Lord! God is my Deliverer, my Redeemer, and the strength of my life. The faithfulness of God secures my future, ensures my reward, and grants victory over every enemy. God is my refuge, my ever-present help in time of trouble. Therefore, I will not fear, though the earth give way and mountains fall into the heart of the sea. The Lord Almighty is with us!