



ANGELS
&
DEMONS

SMALL GROUP GUIDE



ANGELS & DEMONS MINI SERIES PART 1: DEMONS

ICEBREAKER |

Are you more “fight” or “flight” when something bad happens? Would you rather stand your ground and put up your dukes, or run instead of fighting?

INTRODUCTION |

Whether you’ve ever been in a fight, one thing is sure – as believers, we are all in a fight every day. We wrestle against invisible beings in a spiritual realm. That may seem spooky or even a little strange. But it’s real! If we’re going to fight, we might as well engage to win. In this lesson, we will learn how to successfully fight back against the enemy, the devil and his demons.

READ I

Do you believe in demons? Do you think that Satan is real? If you do, you're in the minority of believers. Did you know that 60% of Christians don't think that the devil and demons are real?

Jesus believed in them. In fact, if you read the Gospels – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John – He spends about 20% of His time either teaching about or fighting against the devil and his demons.

We are in the middle of a very real spiritual battle. Read the following verse, and then answer the question after:

For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age.
Ephesians 6:12 (GNT)

Every fight has its risks. What do we risk when we don't take the enemy seriously? (Example: We are more vulnerable to spiritual attacks, we are less likely to take the rest of scripture seriously, our joy and peace is stolen from the enemy, more problems, etc.)

READ I

There are not a lot of scriptures about the origin of the devil and his demons in the Bible. However, there is one passage that tells us a few things. Take a look:

There was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. And the dragon lost the battle, and he and his angels were forced out of heaven. This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels.
Revelation 12:7-9 (NLT)

Two things we learn about the devil and his demons from this passage. First, we see that he is dangerous! In other places in the Bible we learn that he is like a roaring lion, that he seeks to devour us, and that he accuses us before God. As a spiritual being, he is not just sitting around. He has plans to take out as much of God's territory as he can.

But second, we see that he is a defeated foe. He is already cast out of heaven and he is under Jesus' feet! He is a finite being, meaning he can only be in one place at one time but his demon's do most of his evil work for him. We need to be aware of his schemes, but not afraid of his power.

What is something that you always thought was true about Satan and his demons but have learned is not true? (For example, that he can't read minds, that he disguises himself as an angel of light, etc.)

READ I

What do demons do? They, along with the devil, have one goal in mind – to harm and harass those who trust in Jesus. They have several different weapons that they use to do that:

1) Try to lure us away from God

When Jesus was in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), He was tempted by the devil. In the same way, demons try to tempt us away from following God.

2) Try to torment and fill us with fear

In 1 Samuel 16:14, an evil spirit entered Saul and tormented his mind and filled him with fear. This happened after Saul refused to obey God and the Spirit of the Lord left him.

3) Try to inflict suffering and pain on us

Throughout the New Testament, you will find evidence of demons who have possessed people and caused pain, muteness, deafness, and even seizures. (Mark 5:1-5; 7:25, 32; 8:22; 9:17-18)

4) Try to divide us through grudges

The devil knows that when we are divided, we are vulnerable. We are told in 2 Corinthians 2:10-11 that failing to forgive is one weapon of the enemy to do just that.

Which of these weapons most concerns you? Which of these attempts have you personally experienced?

READ I

So how do we respond? If these are the schemes of the devil and his demons, how can we fight back? Take a look at the advice from James:

Submit yourselves therefore to God. **Resist** the devil, and he will flee from you.
Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

James 4:7-8 (ESV)

Here are three things we need to continually be doing to fight against the enemy:

SUBMITTING

We all submit to Jesus when we are saved. Deciding to follow Jesus is the first step. Afterwards, we need to make a continual decision to obey Jesus and the teachings in God's word. Any area of disobedience to Jesus can subject us to spiritual attacks.

RESISTING

The Bible clearly says that the devil flees when we resist. We have the weapon right there! When you feel temptation creeping in, resist it! When you sense negative thoughts seeping in, resist! It's our first line of defense.

DRAWING

When we draw near to God, He draws near to us. And we can't lose when we regularly draw close to God and follow Him!

How have you been able to defeat the enemy in your life in the past? What tips would you give the rest of us?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

The bottom line is that we need awareness without weirdness. That means we know that the devil and his demons exist, but we aren't looking under every bush for him. Not everything bad that happens to us in life is a result of the demonic. But we still need to be ready for any spiritual warfare:

- *Recognize Satan and his demons attack you*
- *Choose to follow Jesus and obey the Word of God more intently*
- *Submit, Resist, and Draw near to God!*

ADDITIONAL ACTION STEPS (Optional):

- Do at least one (1) SOAP Devotions this week
- Share with your group one of your SOAP Devotions from this past week
- Invite a friend to your small group

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we know the battle is not ours, the battle is Yours. And it was won for us on the cross two-thousand years ago through Your Son, Jesus Christ. That was the blow to the enemy's head. Because of the victory that we have in Jesus, we no longer have to fear the enemy because he's been defeated. When we find ourselves in a hard place where we are tempted to do wrong, would You remind us that You have given us the strength to resist the devil. Help us to humble ourselves before You by submitting our cares to You. And rather than entertaining shame & guilt, would You help us to draw near to You. Help us to remember that we are dearly loved by You. Help us also to be aware of the fight every day and stand strong against the schemes of the devil. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

SCRIPTURES FOR S.O.A.P.

Day 1: *A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.*

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NLT)

Day 2: *Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.*

Ephesians 6:14 (NLT)

Day 3: *For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared.*

Ephesians 6:15 (NLT)

Day 4: *In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*

Ephesians 6:16-17 (NLT)

Day 5: *Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.*

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NLT)