**Study Series: Spiritual Warfare**

Author: Jerry Rankin

**Lesson Title: “The Reality of Spiritual Warfare” (pp. 103-113)**

November 1, 2020 Session 09

**The main point of this lesson is:** Satan desires to influence our hearts and minds to divert glory from God and to keep us from victorious obedience to God.

**Focus on this goal:** To help adults acknowledge the work of Satan in their lives without dismissing personal responsibility for their attitudes and actions.

**Key Bible Passage:** Ephesians 6:10-18

**To the Leader:** For Step 1, search for things such as distracted people images, distracted driver images, and so forth.

 Before the Session

1. **Prepare to show** a video of people who are distracted. (Step 1)

2**. Write** “Spiritual Warfare” on the board or large writing surface. (Step 4)

3. **Print** the following references on index cards: 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-13,16; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 5:19. (Step 5)

During the Session

**Step 1. Introduction / Discussion Starter**

**Show** the video of distracted people.

**Ask:**

1. Who found themselves in a similarly distracted situation this week?
2. Have you ever felt spiritually distracted?

**Point out** that extenuating circumstances and even general life can distract us from walking according to the will and Spirit of God.

**Say:** Not only that, but Satan desires to divert our hearts and minds from God; he uses our everyday distractions to lead us away from the face of God.

**Open with prayer**, **asking** the Spirit to reveal to each person any tendency to wander from obedience and focus on God.

**Step 2. Day One – Overt Warfare**

**Invite volunteers to read** Ephesians 6:12 from a variety of translations.

**Ask:**

1. Why might this feel like a false statement?
2. Who might it feel like we’re struggling against?

**As volunteers offer** political, economic, societal, and cultural differences that separate people, **invite a volunteer to read** Ephesians 4:1-6.

**Remind adults** that we are to live in unity.

**Summarize or read** one or two of the demonic encounters described by the author in Day One (pp. 103-105).

**Read** the last two sentences of the second Day One paragraph (top of p. 104).

**Step 3. Day Two – Covert Warfare, Part 1**

**Use** the first Day Two paragraph (p. 105) **to identify** ways people dismiss demonic activity.

**Ask:** Are we aware of Satan’s power and presence or do we dismiss it?

**Read** Romans 8:29.

**Ask:** What is God’s purpose for us?

**Draw** a parallel between Satan’s interference in our lives and his intent to disrupt God’s plan.

**Ask** what would mark a life conformed to the image of Christ. Answers might include love, forgiveness, grace, mercy, obedience to God, Bible Study, and more.

**Invite a volunteer to read** Psalm 96:1-4.

**Point out** we declare His glory in our lives and worship.

**Step 4. Day Three – Covert Warfare, Part 2**

**Invite a volunteer to read** the first Day Three paragraph (p. 107).

**Instruct learners** to underline the blessings of being a believer stated in that paragraph.

**Read** the next paragraph, confronting the reality of those blessings in our lives.

**Ask:** Why do we perpetually struggle to live in victory?

**Point out** that we are in a battle, often unaware our enemy is nearby.

**Invite a volunteer to read** John 3:20-21.

**Explain** we are called to recognize the darkness of Satan so we can walk fully in the light.

**Brainstorm and record** on the writing surface ways we can identify Satan’s distraction in our lives (i.e., confusion, anxiety, apathy, etc.).

**Add** to the list throughout the study.

**Step 5. Day Four – Covert Warfare, Part 3**

**Read** the Day Four opening paragraph (p. 110).

**Ask** who regularly experiences distraction. **Be ready** to share if it’s happened to you this week.

**Ask** the author’s question: “Could it be we have an enemy who has access to our minds and is constantly trying to interfere with our communion, disrupting our intimacy with the father?” (p. 110).

**Distribute** the Scripture references to volunteers to find and read.

**Say:** As we read the Bible with the idea of spiritual warfare in mind, we can see that there are many passages that speak to this topic.

**Invite the volunteers to read** the verses.

**Add to the items** on the board any new insight into Satan’s distractions.

**Invite a volunteer to read** the fourth Day Four paragraph (top of p. 111).

**As a group, discuss** how participants have experienced defeat in their own lives or observed it in the lives of other believers.

**Step 6. Day Five – Alert Warfare**

**Read** 2 Corinthians 2:11.

**Note** “Intentions” in the first paragraph of Day Five (p. 112) is translated “schemes” in the CSB.

**Using** the reference to The Screwtape Letters (p. 112), **point out** that we must be aware that Satan is set on scheming and deceiving us; however, we have the power through Jesus to be aware and live victoriously.

**Invite all learners** to turn to 2 Thessalonians and **ask several volunteers to read** 3:3 from different translations.

**Say:** We are called to awareness of Satan but not to fear; Jesus is faithful, and He will guard us.

**Step 7. Live Out the Lesson**

**Open** your eyes exaggeratedly by **raising** your eyebrows and **encouraging** the class to do the same.

**Say:** This is what we need to do this week: start our day with the reminder to have our eyes wide open to the fact Satan is seeking to distract and deceive us.

**Invite adults** to point to the sky, then say: As we are aware of him, though, we’ll not forget that we already have victory in Jesus.

**Encourage learners** to use these two intentional motions each morning to remind them to be alert to Satan’s efforts to distract them and to be aware of Jesus’ victory over him.

**Close in prayer.**