

WEEK 6

THE BATTLE

OBJECTIVE

The same Gospel that makes peace with God also makes war with sin. When we say “yes” to Jesus, we are entering into a spiritual battle. We will discuss how to prepare for this battle, where the battle is, and how and when we choose to fight.

CHECKLIST

- Pray over each group member by name.
- Send out mid-week text to check-in with Small Group members.
- Announce Serve Experience details for Week 9. Share time, location, what to wear and what you will be doing.
- Invite group members to bring any questions from last week’s topic.
- Remind group members of upcoming Next Steps opportunities (Baptism, Connect, etc.)
- Select someone to share their story next week.

SMALL GROUP

SOCIAL: 10 MINUTES

Welcome the group and create connections for group members to one another.

ICEBREAKER: 5 MINUTES

“Who was your biggest rival growing up? Or what team was your biggest rival?”

STORY: 3 MINUTES

At least a few days in advance, ask one person from the group to share their story of what their life was like before Jesus and when they made the decision to follow Jesus. (Be sure to hold them to a 3-minute limit!)

INTRODUCTION: 5 MINUTES

Remind attendees of the purpose of this group and the importance of their (and your) commitment to it. Celebrate any milestones or next steps of individuals in the group.

Allow participants to share their thoughts on the previous week’s devotional and encourage them to ask any questions they had written down regarding last week’s topic.

“How did you see God move through you this week through your devotions?”

“What questions did you write down?”

VIDEO: 15 MINUTES

Set up and prepare for this week’s video teaching.

“We are learning today how we can best fight the battles that we either are in, are headed into or have already gone through. It’s time lean in and learn together what God’s Word says.”

READ: 2 MINUTES

Open your Bibles together and read through this week’s passage. Be sure that everyone is able to find the book, chapter and verses and encourage group members to take turns reading.

When you were dead in your sins...God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins ... And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:15

DISCUSSION: 30 MINUTES

Lead the group through the reflection questions, encouraging them to even ask their own questions. (This is not the time for the leader to talk, but for participants to engage with each other. Rule of thumb: you talk 30% of the time, they talk 70% of the time.) Be sure that no one or two people dominate the conversation, but you’re facilitating and directing the participation of everyone.

QUESTION 1

What battle(s) are you currently facing? Is it an external battle or is this a battle within your soul?

QUESTION 2

Share about a time when you resisted your sin nature and submitted it over to God.

QUESTION 3

Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Take turns going around in your group reading one verse at a time. How would memorizing this verse in the weeks to come help fight the battles you feel each day?

QUESTION 4

Share about a battle you have gone through. How did you see God work through the battle to bring about good to the situation?

PRAYER: 15 MINUTES

Split into groups of two and pray.

Prayer Focus: Spend time sharing about a current battle, external or internal, and pray over how you can become a victor in this season.

NEXT STEPS: 5 MINUTES

Introduce the materials and encourage members to engage in their weekly devotions for the coming week. Discuss any upcoming events or opportunities for them to take next steps (attending worship experiences, baptism, Rock City Connect, serving beyond our walls).

- Share specifics of your Serve Experience for Week 9.