

September 29 – October 5, 2018
Community Group Questions
BE STRONG

Warm up: What movie do you never get sick of watching? How many times have you seen it?

(Group leaders please read out loud with your group)

This week we are focusing on spiritual battles we face in life. God is doing great things in and through CCC, as we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and pursue "Being The Church." We are doing Kingdom work and reaching people for Jesus. As we discussed this past weekend, the battle we fight in our walk and in the world is not against the physical things of this world, but against the unseen in the spiritual realm. This is not something to be afraid of; it is a reality to be aware of.

Do you ever feel like when you begin to make progress in your relationship with Jesus, you start getting attacked on all sides? Or the temptation meter is turned up to 100? Have you ever noticed that when you are at your lowest point, the battle is the greatest? Have you become fatigued for no reason? Stressed out? Lose your joy? Your prayers feel hindered? You lose your desire to read the Bible? You pull away from other believers or stop pursuing God? This is spiritual warfare!

Think about the people you are witnessing to or discipling; do you notice that just as they show interest or start to grow, something happens? They go through a trial, they are drawn back to their old ways, they take a second job, meet a non-believing boy/girlfriend, or drift off? If you answered yes then be encouraged! This means you are on the right track! Spiritual battles happen internally as we battle against our own sin nature. They also happen externally as the enemy attempts to hinder or slow our progress. We are going to look at both types and then spend some time praying for each other.

Leader note: Allow for some time at the end to have people share what they are struggling with and to pray for each other, as people are comfortable. Remind them that what is shared in the group stays in the group. (20-30 min)

- 1.) What has been your experience with spiritual battles? Are they internal or external struggle?
 - a.) **Reality of our internal struggle:** Read Romans 7:14-25, James 1:12-16, Ephesians 4:19-24 Consider your walk with Jesus and struggle with your old sinful nature.

b.) **Reality of our external struggle:** Satan is called a liar, thief, murderer, a devouring lion, a deceiver, and a schemer. (See 1 Peter 5:8, Eph 6:11, John 8:44, John 10:10) We need to be aware and on alert of areas of vulnerability for attack. (Example: lies we believe, fears, weakness, relationships, complacency)

2.) Ephesians 6:10 NIV - "Finally, **be strong** in the **Lord** and in **his mighty power**." According to these verses, Jesus has authority, victory, and power over things in heaven and on earth. We have been given this authority, power and victory in Jesus Christ. We access this through prayer, the Word, by faith, with the body of Christ. (See 1 John 3:8, Luke 10:17-21, Matthew 29:18-20, Philippians 2:9-11) In the Name of Jesus.

Pray the word, by faith, together as the body of Christ, in the name and authority Jesus!

Take 1-2 minutes now to share a personal struggle (not other people's) you are having in your faith or a difficulty in your own life and pray for yourself or others. You may want to use a passage below to pray. Praying Scripture back to God or over others is different for some of us. When we pray Scripture there are couple things we do:

- Proclaim any promises that are in the passage, declare that we believe them and will follow God's plan to receive them
- Declare Jesus's authority
- We state our trust in Him
- Pray the Scripture as a request
- Put people, ministries, or situations in the verse specifically
- Let the Holy Spirit guide you in praying the word, it is the living word of God

Here are some verses that proclaim God's power and Jesus' victory:

Ephesians 6:10-18, Colossians 1:9-14, James 4:7-10, Romans 8:35-39, 1 John 1:5-10, Jeremiah 32:17, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, John 16:33, Psalm 91:1-4, Isaiah 43:1-2, Luke 10:17-20, Isaiah 54:16-17, 1 Peter 5:6-10, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5, Psalm 121