

The Enemy on the Outside Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. How well do you handle conflict? Explain.
2. Do you like scary movies?

Read the following passage: Luke 22:1-6.

Jesus' public ministry was filled with encounters with demonic spirits. Immediately after Jesus' baptism, he was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness where he was tempted by Satan over a period of 40 days. The final days and hours leading up to Jesus' crucifixion were similarly characterized by intense demonic activity. Whether we realize it or not, we live in the context of an ongoing spiritual conflict with demonic forces. We address demonic oppression by 1) recognizing that it is taking place; 2) attending to the experiences and behaviors in our lives that are giving demonic spirits influence; 3) invoking Jesus' name and commanding demonic spirits to leave.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Have you had any experiences in your life that you think were demonic in nature? Explain.
2. Explain how we can err by giving too much or too little attention to the activity of demonic spirits.
3. Read Ephesians 4:26-27. The apostle Paul indicates that harboring anger can "give the devil a foothold" in our lives or relationships. The following are some common "open doors" through which demonic spirits can gain greater influence in our lives. Do you think there are any such open doors in your life? Explain.
 - Habitual sin
 - Traumatic experiences
 - Unforgiveness
 - Participation in false religions or the occult
 - Embracing wrong views of the self
 - Sexual acts with people afflicted with demons
4. The events surrounding Jesus' final days on earth indicate several ways demons want to attack our lives. Do you think that you may be experiencing spiritual attack in any of these ways?
 - Demonic spirits want to attack our most important relationships, including our relationship with God.
 - Demonic spirits want our hearts to be full of pride.

- Demonic spirits want to bring physical, mental, and emotional devastation to our lives.
5. To overcome demonic attacks in our lives, we need to address any open doors that are giving demonic spirits access, pray, and invoke the name of Jesus. Do you feel like you need to engage in any of these steps in your life? Explain.
 6. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What is one thing you can do this week to strengthen yourself against demonic attacks?

Pray