

Lesson Aim: To grow in our understanding of the biblical worldview of reality and how that will equip us to live victoriously in Christ by appropriately facing off with our true spiritual foes.



connecting

Prayer: Start your time in prayer together, asking the Holy Spirit to lead and guide your discussion.

Icebreaker: Briefly describe a spiritual warfare experience that was frightening and/or difficult to explain? **OR** How is the concept of spiritual warfare (the battle between good and evil in the spiritual realm) often depicted in our culture?

1. **Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-4.** What are some things that stand out to you in these verses? Why can the subject of spiritual warfare be uncomfortable for many people?

2. What are some reasons we may avoid, ignore, deny or retreat from the subject of spiritual warfare?

3. Use the handout *Differing Worldviews* as a guide. What is conspicuously missing from the Western/Secular worldview? (reminder: a worldview is the general thought system we develop for explaining the world around us and our experiences in it.)

4. The Western/Secular worldview is especially prevalent in North America and Europe. How might this worldview affect the thinking patterns and lifestyles of Christ-followers in these areas?

5. How have you experienced or observed the influence of the Animistic worldview (in the USA or abroad)?

6. Let's discuss the Biblical worldview. **Read Ephesians 6:12.** Have you ever been involved with or observed conflict between people and then came to the realization that the true enemy was not human but spiritual?

7. **Read Isaiah 14:12-15, Luke 10:18 and Revelation 12:7-12.** What happened in the battle between God and Satan? Where did Satan end up?

8. **Read Ezekiel 28:12b-17 and Genesis 3:1-6.** What did Satan do after he was cast down to earth? What is he doing today?

9. **Read Romans 16:20, Revelation 12:12 and Revelation 20:10.** What is going to happen to Satan?

10. How can an understanding of the Biblical worldview help us in practical ways to live for Christ and in the daily battles we face?



growing



reaching



reaching

Close by reading Ephesians 2:1-7 together and in prayer however else the Lord leads you.

INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Ephesians 6:12 - *Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

PRINCIPLE #1: Avoiding, ignoring, denying or retreating from such issues represents an open confession of failure or a lack of faith.

PRINCIPLE #2: Behavior = Values / Beliefs

CONCEPTS OF REALITY... 3 DIFFERENT WORLDVIEWS

❶ WESTERN / SECULAR WORLDVIEW (EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA)

❷ ANIMISTIC WORLDVIEW

- ▶ Worldview = The general thought system we develop for explaining the world around us & our experiences in it.
- ▶ What do you do with a story like Luke 13:10-16?

- ▶ QUESTION: How do we correctly understand and relate to the world around us?

- ▶ ANSWER: Revelations

❸ BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

- ▶ Isaiah 14:12-15; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:7-12; Ezekiel 28:12b-17; Genesis 3:14-15; Romans 16:20; Ephesians 2:17

CONTEXT OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

❶ The Contestants (Main Actors):

- a. The infinite, uncreated and omnipotent God + all the holy angels (2/3rds)
- b. The finite, created and limited devil + all demons / fallen angels (1/3rd)

❷ The Stage: The Earth

❸ The Trophy:

- a. Glory (Exodus 14:4; Habakkuk 2:14; Isaiah 42:8)
- b. Human Beings