

INVISIBLE BATTLE

SUPERNATURAL: THE STRUGGLE IS REAL – PART 1

START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- Let's start soft. What is your favorite food combination? (i.e. bacon/eggs, pork/fried apples, steak/blue cheese crumbles, etc)

START THINKING. ASK QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- Brainstorm: What is very real yet not visible?
- Read the scriptures on the next pages in preparation for the following conversation.

START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- Why do we think that if we obey God life should be easy?
- Growing up what was your view of things "supernatural?" (spooky, evil, fake, Hollywood)
- Looking back, who is someone in your life that you know realize was fighting a spiritual battle, not just a physical battle?
- What has been your experience around those who seem to "obsess" over the supernatural? Everything seems to be "God did that" or "Satan did this." What has been your level of respect for them?
- At what point in your life did you come to the realization that there is a spiritual battle being fought, and you are in the midst of it?
- Mark listed three responses. Give up (nothing I can do), Take up (if it's to be, it's up to me), and Team up (partner with God). You've probably tried all three. Describe your experience fighting spiritual battles with any one of those methods.
- Crowdsourcing: Read the "Armor of God" passage in Ephesians 6 aloud as a group. What is one thing that stands out to you?
- If you could see it all, every bit of spiritual battle, who would you do differently?

START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Open my eyes, Lord. My busyness ignores what is real. My resources tempt me to trust in myself. I'm in this battle. Show me how to team up with you to win it. Amen.

START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- This week, when your emotions start to get riled up, ask the Holy Spirit to help you peek behind the physical and see what is going on in the spiritual.

John 10:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

1 Peter 5:8 (NIV)

⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:3-4 (NIV)

³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Ephesians 6:10-18 (NIV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

¹² For 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.

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.