

## Battleground: Our Witness in the World

**Icebreaker:** Share about the first formal job you had as a teenager or young person. Relate to the group about one experience you had on the job or something you learned from it.

**Worship:** Check out the worship resources we have available on [Lifegroupleaders.com](http://Lifegroupleaders.com). You will find playlists available on Spotify, YouTube and Vimeo.

[Worship Playlist 13](#) – NEW!

The Worship Medley | Tauren Wells

Worthy | Elevation Worship

Fresh Wind | Hillsong Worship

**Review:** Welcome to week 4 of our spiritual warfare series. Remember, Ephesians 6:12 says, “our battle is not against flesh and blood.” We hope you’ve joined the challenge to draw near to God for 30 days, using this [resource](#) as a reminder. (Leaders, share this link with your Lifegroup members if you haven’t already done so.)

Let’s read the key scripture together, James 4:6-8b.

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

SUBMIT therefore to God. RESIST the devil and he will flee from you. DRAW NEAR to God and HE will draw near to you.

Ask someone to read this guided prayer or read it together, if everyone has a copy of the resource card.

“God, I repent of pride in my life and I HUMBLE and SUBMIT myself to you. From this posture, I RESIST the attacks of the enemy against my relationship with you, my family, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and my witness to the world. And, as I DRAW NEAR to you, open my ears to hear and give me grace and power to obey your word. Amen.”

Today we are going to look at the enemy’s tactics, especially against our witness in the world, and a divine response strategy.

### Read and Discuss:

Read **Matthew 28:16-20** – The Great Commission. This is a very familiar passage but read it in light of the topic of spiritual warfare and our witness in the world. Discuss the following questions:

1. Reflect on Jesus' statement, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."
  - a. What does this mean for us as His followers?
  - b. How does recognizing Jesus' authority empower us in spiritual warfare?
  - c. Read Luke 10:19-20. How does Jesus empower His disciples with authority over spiritual forces? How does this passage complement our understanding of Jesus' authority in Matthew 28:18?

# BATTLEGROUND

*SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS*

2. Put yourself in the shoes of one of the disciples hearing Jesus' command to make disciples of all nations. What doubts or uncertainties might arise within you about your ability to fulfill this commission? How do you grapple with these doubts while striving to obey Jesus' call?
3. What promises does Jesus make as he sends his disciples into the world? In what ways does the assurance of Jesus' continual presence strengthen your faith and resolve in fulfilling the Great Commission?
4. How does spiritual warfare come into play in our day-to-day lives based on the command of Jesus to go and make disciples?
5. Think about your life today – What is the major warfare against you in being a witness to the world?

## Read and Discuss:

**Background:** As Jesus gives the Great Commission to the disciples, He is caught up into heaven and now the disciples are to wait for the Holy Spirit to come before going to bear witness to who Jesus is in the world. The book of Acts is the beginning of this Great Commission fulfillment that Jesus gave to go and witness to the world and make disciples. They encountered much warfare as they shared about Jesus. On one occasion, the disciples were brought before the Jewish council and told to stop bearing witness of Jesus. As you read this story, consider the spiritual warfare and how Peter and John responded.

Read **Acts 4:1-21** together and discuss the following questions:

1. What happens when we witness about Jesus in the world? Why might this upset certain powers, principalities, and rulers?
2. What was the main tactic of the council to stop the disciples? What is the enemy's main tactic to stop you from witnessing to the world?
3. What was your favorite part about how Peter and John responded? What are a few principles that we can adopt from their response?
4. Think about how the promises of Jesus within the Great Commission might have influenced the words of Peter and John before the Sanhedrin. What words of Jesus might you need to hold on to as you go witness in the world? As a group share favorite scriptures that embolden you to witness in the world!

**Prayer:** Let's break up into groups of 2-3. Take a moment to wait on the Lord individually and ask Him where you might begin or continue to witness to the world in your day-to-day coming and going. Pray for each other the words of Paul in Ephesians 6:19 to fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.

**Resource:** For further study, consider watching this video before your discussion: [Bible Project - Witness](#)