



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Eph. 1:18-23 

Ask one person to pray at the beginning of your meeting.

Check-in

Check in with each other about how everyone is doing.

Open the Bible. Read Eph. 1:18-23

Have someone read this overview:

Sermon Summary:

Today many people reject the supernatural; yet they can't explain the evil manifest in horrendous violence and cruelty, war and genocide. The Bible traces the cause back to cosmic powers of darkness, spiritual forces of evil which impact humanity. Paul's readers were well aware of unseen evil powers; they feared these hostile forces. Now Paul brought good news—Jesus' death not only took care of trespasses and sins, but also (in a decisive battle at the cross) defeated these dark satanic powers, bringing freedom from bondage and fear. Plus, Jesus rose and ascended to rule the universe, launching his kingdom of light. Today the same divine power is available to us, the believers—his church, as we 'wrap up the war' against the evil powers. Together let's learn how to be warriors in this spiritual warfare.???

Discussion:

1. We do not usually think that God's peace-making mission was accomplished through warfare. What are other instances in scripture that address spiritual warfare?
2. Verse 22 states that "he [God] subjected everything under his [Christ] feet." How do you see or not see the reality of this verse?
3. What do you think are some of the hostile powers that Christ defeated on the cross? What are some of the Satanic powers that we see today?
4. Some Christians ignore "spiritual warfare" entirely; others seem overly occupied with it, seeing Satan and /or evil spirits everywhere. What is the proper attitude and perspective for Christians?
5. Read Col. 2:15; John 12:31-33 and Heb. 2:14. Why are these verses so crucial for us to know and remember?
6. How will you recall these verses when you feel overwhelmed by Satan's opposition?

End with Prayer.

- Ask the Father for enlightenment to see Christ' victory on the cross.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.