

# Small Group Study

## Our Mission

To build a Christian community by making fully devoted disciples of non-religious and nominally religious people



## Discussion

### Your Kingdom Come: “Kingdom Warfare”

## Scripture

Have a volunteer read the following scripture:

### **Matthew 12:22-28 (NLT):**

*22 Then a demon-possessed man, who was blind and couldn't speak, was brought to Jesus. He healed the man so that he could both speak and see.*

*23 The crowd was amazed and asked, “Could it be that Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah?”*

*24 But when the Pharisees heard about the miracle, they said, “No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan, the prince of demons.”*

*25 Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, “Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart.*

*26 And if Satan is casting out Satan, he is divided and fighting against himself. His own kingdom will not survive. 27 And if I am empowered by*

*Satan, what about your own exorcists? They cast out demons, too, so they will condemn you for what you have said.*

*28 But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you.*

### Ice Breakers

Use ONE of the questions to help people open up and to focus your meeting. It is very helpful to go around in a circle with the leader going first. (Remember if you have new members or guests you should take time to introduce everyone.)

- 1.** What person would you hate to be left alone in a room with?
- 2.** If you were in the army, what would be your job (e.g. medic, chaplain, infantry, cook, mechanic, commander, etc.)
- 3.** Share a time when you got in a fight (either verbal or physical) with someone.

## Questions

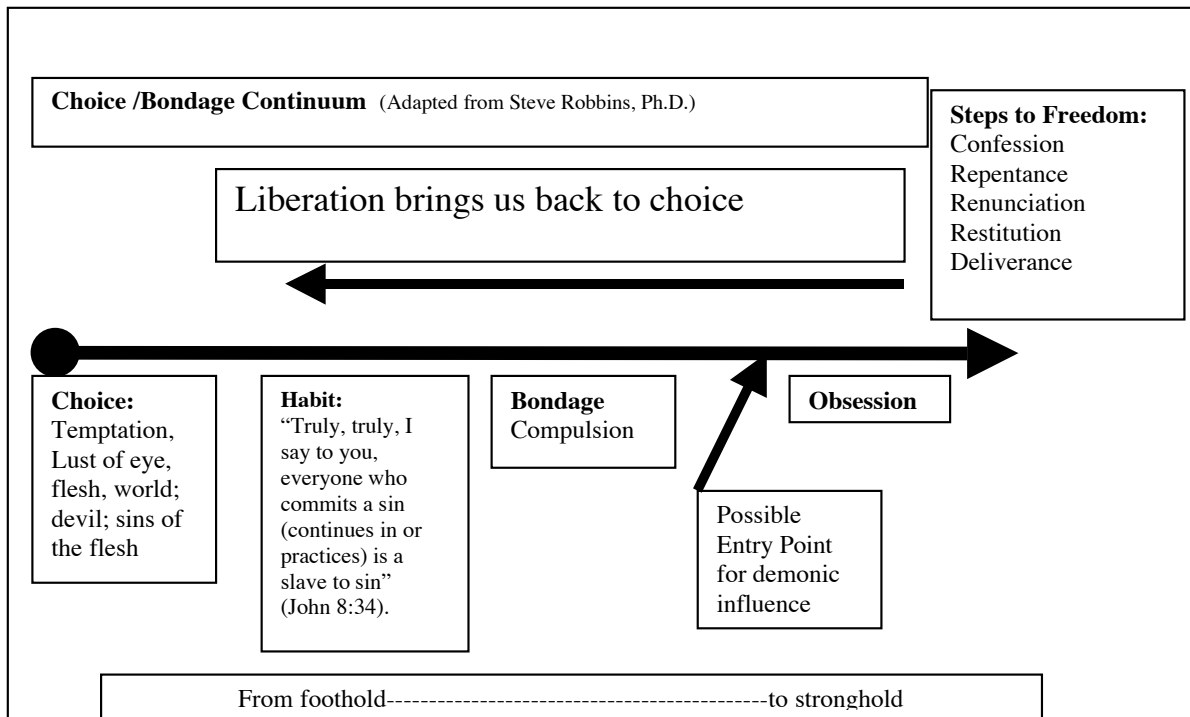
Please feel free to adjust this study to fit your group's needs and to listen to the direction of the Holy Spirit. It is not necessary to use all of the questions.

- 1.** What are your thoughts when you read about the “demon-possessed man” from Matthew 12? Do you think demons are real? Is the devil real?
- 2.** What are some of the devil's schemes? How does he influence or outright attack us?
- 3.** Read **2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NIV):**

*3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

How would you describe a stronghold? What are some of the strongholds people experience today?

4. Consider the following diagram (read it initially from left to right, starting with **Choice**, then **Habit**, **Bondage**, **Obsession**, **Steps to Freedom**, then back to **Choice**).



*Sin Issues as an Entry Point for Demonic Influence*

What are some of your thoughts as you look through this diagram? Do you know people who may be at each of the stages on the diagram? Have you ever gone through the stages on this chart yourself?

**5. Read 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.*

What are each of the weapons the Lord gives us to fight the enemy? If the Word of God is the “Sword of the Spirit,” what are some ways it is used as a weapon? What are some ways prayer can become part of our everyday life at home, work, and school?

6. In what areas in your life do you experience the greatest spiritual warfare? Please be as specific as you're comfortable with.

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God bless,

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