

- Satan is real and he wants to control us (vv. 26-30)
- Jesus is greater and He wants to rescue us (vv. 30-33)
- Jesus can make people very uncomfortable (vv. 34-37)
- Jesus sends the ones He saves to tell others about Him (vv. 38-39)

Common questions about spiritual warfare:

What are demons and where do they come from?

Demons are fallen angels who joined Satan in rebelling against God. About 1/3 of all angels rebelled and became evil. They are now active in the spiritual realm to oppose God and His work. Their goal is to bring as many people as possible into rebellion against God and condemnation in hell. They will experience final judgment along with Satan when Christ returns.

Luke 10:18, Isaiah 14:12-14, Revelation 12:3-4

How can a Christian resist Satan and demonic forces?

Believers should be alert to Satan's strategies, stand firm in faith, pray, put on "the full armor of God" from Ephesians 6, and follow Jesus' example of knowing and quoting Scripture.

Ephesians 6:10-20, 1 Peter 5:8-9, Matthew 4:1-10

Can a Christian be possessed by a demon?

No, Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and owned by God. Christians can however be tempted, influenced, and oppressed by demons. "Demonic oppression is the work of evil spiritual forces that urge us to sin, to deny God's word, to feel spiritually dead, and to be in bondage to sinful things." (carm.org)

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 John 4:4, Matthew 12:43-45

Should I be afraid of demons?

Christians can be confident that Christ in them is greater than the evil forces in this world. Jesus has already "disarmed" demonic powers through his triumph on the cross and will once and for all defeat them in his return. God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.

1 John 4:4, Colossians 2:15, 2 Timothy 1:7

FURTHER REFLECTION

- Meditate on Ephesians 6:10-20. Memorize 1 Peter 5:8-9 and 1 John 4:4.
- Read “Sacred Weapons for Spiritual War” - www.desiringgod.org/articles/sacred-weapons-for-spiritual-war
- Read “Satan and Demons” - www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/satan-and-demons/
- Read *Victory in Spiritual Warfare* by Tony Evans.
- Listen to “Came to my Rescue” - www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFSIMdalerU
- Listen to “He loved me” - www.youtube.com/watch?v=D5HlzwBj7GM

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. This account of the demoniac may seem different to us, but are there ways in which you can relate to parts of his story? Explain.
3. What impresses you most about Jesus in this passage?
4. Are there problems that you have thought of only as physical that may have a spiritual component? How does recognizing this change your approach to the problem?
5. Read 1 Peter 5:8-9. What do we learn in this passage about Satan and spiritual warfare?
6. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. How is this battle plan different from the ways in which we often try to approach and solve problems?
7. Which piece of armor in Ephesians 6:10-20 might be most helpful to you in the midst of whatever spiritual battles you are currently facing? Why?
8. Read 1 John 4:4. What is one way Jesus has demonstrated His power in your life?
9. When the delivered man heard Jesus say “Return home and tell how much God has done for you,” what emotions may he have felt? How might you feel if you were in his shoes?
10. Read Psalm 30:11-12 and Psalm 40:9-10. When was the last time you told someone “how much God has done” in your life? How might you be more intentional to share about God’s love and faithfulness to you?
11. Spend some time praying together for people in your circles to have open hearts to hear about the Lord and to come to faith in Christ.

CURRENT IN-PERSON SUNDAY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM

- [Bridge](#) (room 326)
- [Cornerstone](#) (room 229)
- [Timeline to Eternity](#) (room 226) *virtual recap with instructor, Eric Nelson, at 12:45*
- Welcoming & Befriending Internationals (room 224)

11:00 AM

- Kid’s Sunday School (ages birth – 4-year-old)
- [Bruce/Claybrook](#) (room 228)
- [Men’s Class](#) (room 224)
- [Zimmerman/Scesa](#) (room 327)