

2026-04-08 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: Recognizing and Resisting Satan's Tactics

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts and minds to His truth, to protect you from spiritual blindness, and to give you wisdom as you discuss spiritual warfare.

Ice Breaker

Share one time when you felt spiritually attacked or distanced from God. Looking back, can you identify what tactics were being used against you?

Key Scripture References

1 Peter 5:8 - "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

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

2 Corinthians 4:4 - "The God of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers..."

John 8:44 - "When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

Main Takeaways

1. Satan's Nature and Strategy

Satan's only job is to steal, kill, and destroy

He operates subtly, not obviously (like the WWII sabotage manual)

He's active, not passive—always looking for vulnerable targets

He isolates, intimidates, and strikes when we're weak

2. Four Main Tactics of the Enemy

A. Blindness (Spiritual)

Blinding minds to gospel truth

Making us justify things we used to feel conviction about

Letting culture dictate our morality

Searing our conscience like a hot iron

B. Worldly Pleasures

Lust of the flesh: "I feel it and I want it" (overeating, sexual sin, addiction, comfort-seeking)

Lust of the eyes: "I see it and I want it" (materialism, envy, keeping up with others)

Pride of life: "I am it" (boasting, superiority, defending worth through success/image)

C. Lies

Satan is the "father of lies"

He twists God's Word: "Did God really say...?"

He distorts truth and replaces it with lies

Examples: gender confusion, abortion justification

D. Isolation

Sin leads to shame, which leads to hiding from God and others

Makes us feel God won't accept us

Prevents us from gathering with believers

Creates busyness that crowds out prayer and Bible reading

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Enemy

Before this sermon, how seriously did you take the reality of Satan and spiritual warfare? Has your perspective changed?

The sermon mentioned that "if you knew who Satan was, you'd be wrapped around God's leg like a scared three-year-old." What does this mean to you?

Review the names of Satan listed in Scripture. Which one is most sobering to you and why?

Blindness

In what areas of life have you noticed culture trying to dictate morality to Christians? How have you responded?

Have you ever experienced a "seared conscience" about something you used to feel conviction about? What happened?

The sermon mentioned 54 million Christians didn't vote in the last election. How does sitting out of important cultural issues reflect spiritual blindness?

Worldly Pleasures

Which of the three areas (lust of flesh, lust of eyes, pride of life) do you struggle with most?

How does gratitude specifically combat each of these areas? Share practical examples.

The sermon mentioned pride keeping people from singing in worship or attending men's groups. Where does pride keep you from fully engaging in spiritual practices?

Lies

What are some common lies Satan tells in today's culture that directly contradict God's Word?

When have you experienced the "Did God really say...?" tactic in your own life?

How well do you know Scripture? Are you able to combat lies with truth like Jesus did?

Isolation

The sermon asked: "How many people have a friend (not your spouse) that you could call at 2 AM if something really bad happened?" If you couldn't raise your hand, what steps can you take to develop that kind of friendship?

How does shame lead to isolation? Share an example (if comfortable) of when shame made you want to hide from God or others.

Why is the "mat carrier" concept (friends who would tear open a roof to get

you to Jesus) so important for spiritual survival?

Practical Applications

Individual Action Steps

Choose 1-2 to focus on this week:

Combat Blindness

Identify one area where you've let culture influence your thinking more than Scripture

Commit to studying what God's Word actually says about this issue

Take a stand on something you've been passive about

Combat Worldly Pleasures

Start a daily gratitude journal listing what God has provided

Identify your biggest temptation (flesh, eyes, or pride) and create a specific plan to address it

Practice contentment by going one week without purchasing anything non-essential

Combat Lies

Memorize one key Scripture that speaks truth to a lie you're tempted to believe

When you hear "Did God really say...?" in your mind, immediately counter with what Scripture actually says

Listen to or read a sermon/book that strengthens your biblical worldview

Combat Isolation

Reach out to someone in the church and ask them to be an accountability partner

Join a small group, men's/women's group, or Bible study

Schedule regular check-ins with a Christian friend (weekly or bi-weekly)

Confess a sin or struggle to a trusted believer this week

Group Action Steps

Accountability Exchange

Pair up with someone in the group to be "mat carriers" for each other
Exchange phone numbers and commit to checking in at least once a week
Give permission to ask hard questions about your spiritual life

Prayer Coverage

Share your specific area of vulnerability with the group
Commit to praying for each other daily in these weak areas
Text encouragement or Scripture when someone comes to mind

Scripture Memorization Challenge

As a group, memorize 1 Peter 5:8 or John 10:10 this week
Share how knowing this Scripture helped you recognize an attack
Reflection Questions for Personal Quiet Time
Where am I most vulnerable to Satan's attacks right now?
Am I isolated from other believers? If so, what fear or pride is keeping me from connecting?
What lie have I been believing that contradicts God's Word?
Is there unconfessed sin creating shame and distance between me and God?
Do I truly believe Satan is real and actively working against me?

Prayer Focus

Pray together for:

Eyes to see spiritual warfare clearly
Courage to stand against cultural lies
Freedom from shame and isolation
Genuine Christian friendships and accountability
Protection from the enemy's schemes

A deeper love for God's Word as our weapon

Close with this truth: "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). Satan may accuse, but God has already declared you forgiven and loved.

For Next Week

Read Ephesians 6:10-18 (the armor of God)

Journal about one area where you experienced victory over temptation this week

Reach out to at least one person from your group to encourage them

Leader Notes

Be prepared for vulnerable sharing—create a safe, non-judgmental environment

Have tissues available; discussions about shame and isolation can be emotional

If someone shares about serious struggles (addiction, suicidal thoughts), follow up privately and connect them with pastoral care

Emphasize that everyone struggles; no one is alone in their battles

End on hope: we have victory in Christ, and Satan is already defeated