

2026-06-28 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: Tug of War - Light vs. Darkness

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to speak to each person and help you hear His voice as you discuss these truths together.

Icebreaker

Share a time when you've participated in an actual tug-of-war (or similar team competition). What made the difference between winning and losing?

Key Scripture Passages

Revelation 12:1-17 - The cosmic conflict between light and darkness

2 Chronicles 15:1-8 - The promise: "The Lord is with you when you are with Him"

Genesis 3 - The beginning of the tug of war

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Conflict

The Reality of Spiritual Warfare

How does Revelation 12 help us understand the ongoing spiritual battle we face?

Why do you think many people today don't believe in the devil or hell? How does this affect their spiritual lives?

The "If-Then" Principle

Discuss the statement from 2 Chronicles 15:2: "The Lord is with you when you are with Him." How does this challenge modern ideas about God's unconditional presence?

How do we balance God's grace with our responsibility to seek Him?

Personal Reflection

Measuring Spiritual Growth

The pastor asked: "Are you any closer to Christ since the time you accepted Him?" How would you honestly answer that question?

In what areas have you grown? Where have you remained stagnant?

Taking God for Granted

What does it look like in practical terms to take God's grace for granted?

Share an example of when you've treated God's gifts with an "oh well" attitude rather than genuine gratitude.

Living in the Light

Being Light in Darkness

The sermon mentioned that light shows up where there's "resistance or reception." What does this mean for how we live out our faith?

How can we be "contact points for the light" in our daily lives?

The Anchor Man

The pastor described the Holy Spirit as our "anchor man" in the tug of war.

How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's strength in your battles?

What "flip flops" (inadequate spiritual preparation) have you worn into spiritual battles?

Key Takeaways

The conflict is real: Satan is actively trying to pull us away from God, just as he tried to destroy Christ from birth.

Grace requires response: God's grace is amazing and broad, but it calls for our active participation—seeking Him, walking with Him, and living for Him.

Community matters: We're stronger together in the tug of war. We need each other more than we think.

Witness through peace: When others see us having peace in our storms, they want what we have.

God doesn't change: The "if-then" principles throughout Scripture still apply today.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to focus on this week:

Option 1: Daily Seeking

Set aside 15 minutes each day specifically to seek God—not just with requests, but to know Him better

Journal about what you discover

Option 2: Gratitude Reset

Each time you're tempted to take something for granted this week, stop and thank God specifically for it

Share your experience with someone in the group

Option 3: Team Player

Identify one person in your church/small group who you've dismissed or "eye-rolled" mentally

Pray for them daily and look for ways God might use them in your life

Option 4: Light Assessment

Ask yourself: "Would anyone know I'm a Christian by watching my life this week?"

Make one specific change to be a clearer "light" in your workplace, home, or community

Accountability Questions

What specific area of your life feels like the biggest "tug of war" right now?
Are you wearing "flip flops" into any spiritual battles? What would proper preparation look like?

Who in your life needs to see you pull harder on God's side of the rope?

Closing Reflection

The pastor said: "Sometimes we need to bow down and go, God, why are you so good to me?"

Take 2-3 minutes of silence for each person to reflect on God's goodness in their life, even in the midst of struggles.

Closing Prayer

Pray together, focusing on:

Thanking God for His grace that we don't deserve

Asking for strength to actively seek Him daily

Committing to pull together as a team in the spiritual battles we face

Praying for specific struggles members shared

For Next Week

Read Revelation 12 several times this week

Come prepared to share one way you experienced God's presence when you actively sought Him

Bring any questions or insights from your daily time with God

Remember: The goal isn't perfection, but progression. We're learning to pull together toward Christ, not competing against each other.