

# SPIRITUAL WARFARE 101

## THEOLOGICAL QUESTION

How do I engage in spiritual warfare?

## BIG IDEA

Spiritual warfare is absolutely real. It is the opposition of the Devil and his demons to God's rule and reign, and to the people of God. We must proactively guard ourselves through prayer, and outfit ourselves for battle with the armor of God.

## SCRIPTURE USED

**Ephesians 6:12:** *For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

**2 Corinthians 4:3-4:** *If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.*

**Ephesians 6:13-18:** *Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.*

## OPENER

### Lifehouse's *Everything*

#### For the opener you will need:

- Video projection equipment
- An internet connection with a cued up Youtube video of a skit based on Lifehouse's song *Everything*

Multiple youth groups have filmed their own dramatic interpretation of the band Lifehouse's song "Everything." Do a search at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) for "Lifehouse Everything skit." Screen a few of the options to determine which is most appropriate for your group and ensure that it is of adequate quality. The idea here is just to illustrate that spiritual warfare exists. There is a battle for the main character's allegiance in these videos.

## EXPLAIN

Today we're going to be discussing spiritual warfare. Just saying that makes some people squirm a bit, but this battle is real. Throughout the New Testament the words used when discussing this topic describe a true struggle: fighting words, boxing verbs, even military imagery. This is a serious and intense war. As you watch the clip I'm about to show you, think about how spiritual warfare might be involved in what the main character is experiencing.

Play the video.

## ASK

- What did you see in this video that demonstrates spiritual warfare?
- Pretend I did not understand the video. How would you explain to me that the girl was "under attack"?
- What did Jesus do for the girl?
- Did you notice that the actor playing Jesus did not sit idly by when the girl was struggling? He was actively working to try to draw her toward Him as He pulled on the pretend rope. How does this relate to us when we are under attack?

## TRANSITION

### EXPLAIN

What is spiritual warfare? Paul explains that we are not fighting against enemies of flesh and blood, but against *"evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, mighty powers of this dark world, and against evil spirits in heavenly places"* (Ephesians 6:12). That sounds like disturbing news, but the writers of the Bible realized how incredibly important it is that we understand that spiritual warfare is absolutely real. The gospels record Jesus' temptation by Satan, perhaps one of the most epic examples of spiritual warfare that we have. They also record Jesus casting out demons, and the words used to describe these incidents clearly reflect that the demons anticipated that Jesus would confront and engage them.