

## Small Group Notes based on The Spirit 8

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- This Week: Battling Unclean Spirits.
- There is a spirit world.
  - The Bible word "spirit" means breath. It is a broad term applying to various "unseen" things.
    - For example: The Holy Spirit, angels, demons, even attitudes or emotions, etc.
  - In Bible times people argued about the extent of the unseen world: **Acts 23:8**.
    - That, of course, still happens today. But the Bible is clear...there is a lot going on in the spirit world! Don't get hyper-specific.
    - What ditches have you see people get in regarding this?
- How does this impact us? Well, what is our struggle against? **Ephesians 6:11-12**
  - Our struggle is against evil in the unseen world.
    - Not people. Please get this right. We fight for people, all people.
  - What type of evil?
    - Everything from the Satanic big dogs to malicious whispers like "he/she doesn't deserve my forgiveness." We will deal mostly with the latter.
    - Did you know that Satan has a will for your life too?
      - What do you think Satan's will is for your life?
- Unclean spirits can harass people. Even good people. How does that work?
  - They go looking for people that they are able to hurt.
    - **1 Peter 5:8**, (prowls around like a roaring lion.) Hidden good news?
    - **Matthew 12:43-45**, (arid places seeking rest) Hidden good news?
  - They try to fool or trap people.
    - **2 Corinthians 2:6-11** (scheme to divide by unforgiveness)
    - **2 Timothy 2:23-26**. (trap to do the devil's will)
  - They are "at work" in people. That's kind of creepy. What do you think that means?
    - **Ephesians 2:1-2**
- How do you get rid of these unclean spirits?
  - First step is resist. **James 4:7**
    - The Bible doesn't teach us to ask God to take care of evil spirits for us. We are to cast them out.
    - Quick hint: "Shut up. Get out!" The authority is Jesus, but you are under that authority.
      - You can do that with anything, including laziness, etc.
      - Tell it to leave. Get a friend to agree with you. Prayer team.
  - Then be being filled with the Holy Spirit.
    - **Ephesians 5:18-20**. The Spirit is the best medicine!
- The point of all of this is that if you are dealing with unseen internal battles, there is hope in Jesus.
  - Depression, anxiety, fear, desire to hurt others, bad self image, etc. are overcomeable in Christ.
  - The fruit of the Spirit is the weapon against these things. Embrace the Holy Spirit not unclean spirits.
- Closing Scripture: **Romans 8:6**.
  - Not death, life and peace. Let's take that.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!