

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on The War: Part 1

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.
- **The War: Part 1**
- This series is going to be about fighting the good fight.
 - Have you heard this terminology from the Scriptures? It's in there: fight the good fight, the weapons of our warfare, the armor of God, etc.
 - As we said in the "Vision" series: a real relationship with the living God will call you to action.
- This battle is fought on two fronts, and there is tension between the two.
 - We fight for everlasting life in eternity and for abundant life now.
 - Have you felt the tension between these two? Explain.
- Understanding how these two interact is essential for success. Discuss these extremes:
 - Some focus on eternal life at the expense of abundant life now.
 - When out of hand this may drive people away from God because the intense focus on eternity can cause today to be utterly miserable! (Stories?)
 - Others have a tendency to focus on enjoying life today.
 - When out of hand this may let people drift from God or stay separate from God to avoid confrontation or hardship for eternity's sake.
- I don't think this is about balance. It is about winning on both fronts because they work together.
- Let's paint the pictures of each front.
 - Fighting for everlasting life:
 - Heaven and Hell are real. Let that sink in.
 - **Daniel 12:2** and **Revelation 20:11-15**.
 - Combine those with **Matthew 7:13-14**.
 - We are called to pull people (yourself too!) out of Hell into Heaven.
 - What sacrifice is worth bringing someone from damnation to glory??
 - This is how Paul felt about it: **Romans 9:1-3**.
 - What would you think of a person who knows the truth of God but who won't lift a finger to save a lost a dying world?
 - Fighting for abundant life now:
 - Check this out: **Mark 10:28-31**.
 - What, we get good things "in this present age"?????
 - And then **Matthew 11:28-30**.
 - Was Jesus lying or did he mean that?????
 - And of course **John 10:10**.
 - Jesus is talking about abundant life today!
- How do we reconcile this? Are we to enjoy life to the full as the blessed children of God or should we sacrifice everything we are for the eternal Kingdom of God??
 - Have you heard the old saying, "The best revenge is living well.?"
 - It's kind of like that. The best evangelism includes living in abundant life!
 - How do you think that works? What are some exceptions to this idea? (Martyrs, etc.)
 - Let's look at **Matthew 7:13-14** again.
 - Jesus is talking about both fronts.
 - Few find abundant life in this world.
 - Few find eternal life in the next.
 - Believe to fight the good fight to win on both fronts!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!