

## Day One: Small Group Guide

Read: Luke 10:17-23 (p. 1170)

Read: Commentary (p. 1171)

Reflect: Do you think that Satan is stirred up when God's people begin to make an advance? Why would that happen?

Dig: Notice in verse one of chapter 10 Jesus sends them out "two by two." Notice also in Matthew 18:18-20 (p. 1102) that Jesus urges us to a prayer with "two or three." What principle might we draw about spiritual warfare from these texts?

Under what circumstances does the word "joy" come up in these verses?

What does Jesus want them to rejoice over?

Where did Jesus want them to keep the focus?

What might that teach us about how we should approach demons?

Apply: How can you become like a "little child" so that you can prevail in spiritual warfare? Ask God for that attitude.

## Day Two: "The Authority of Christ"

Read: Matthew 28:16-20 (p. 1121)

Read: Commentary (p. 1120)

Reflect: How much power and authority does Christ have compared to what Satan has? Is Satan's power like an equal opposing force? What limits Satan's power?

Dig: Notice the phrase "some doubted" in verse 17. What does the inclusion of this phrase tell you about the honesty and trustworthiness of the Bible?

What does that same phrase tell you about whom God chooses to use?

What are the two assurances that Jesus gives his disciple? (see commentary)

What does Colossians 2:15 (p. 1376) add to your understanding of Jesus' power of demonic powers?

What does "making disciples" consist of in Jesus' commission?

Apply: Turn to page 1507 in your Freedom in Christ Bible and read the first two paragraphs of the section on the bottom of the page entitled "The Battle for Your Mind." Then form a prayer and pray it out loud as you praise and thank God, speak the truth, and let the spirits of darkness know where you stand!

## Day Three: "The Conferring of Spiritual Authority"

Read: Ephesians 1:1-2:7 (p. 1355)

Read: Commentary (p. 1355)

Reflect: Why does Christ want us to know the extent of our spiritual power?

Dig: Make a list of the blessings that Paul says we have in Christ which appear in the first 14 verses of chapter 1 of Ephesians:

When Paul prays that "the eyes of their heart be enlightened," what is it that he wants them to "see" with these heart eyes?

Count how many times the phrase "in Christ" and "in the saints" is used in this chapter. What does this tell you about where our power comes from?

Apply: From the list that you make under the first question of the "Dig" section, form a prayer thanking God for all the rich blessings that we have in Christ.

### **Day Four: "Qualifications for Spiritual Authority"**

Read: Luke 9 (p. 1167)

Read: Commentary (p. 1168)

Reflect: How do you qualify for great power and position in God's kingdom? Are you qualified for much responsibility and authority for God?

Dig: Read each passage where "kingdom-killing attitudes" are present to see if you can clearly see the reference in the scripture to these attitudes:

Self-sufficiency (Mark 6:45-52 p. 1133)

Ashamed of Jesus (Luke 9:26)

Unbelieving (Luke 9:37-45)

Pride (Luke 9:46-48)

Possessiveness (Luke 9:49-50)

Wrong spirit (Luke 9:51-56)

False confidence (Luke 9:57-58)

Lame excuses (Luke 9:59-62)

Notice that Jesus uses these men even though they have so many shortcomings. But how do these attitudes short-change their ministry?

Apply: Ask God to root out each of the kingdom-killing attitudes that were exposed in this chapter.

### **Day Five: "The Limitations of Spiritual Authority"**

Read: Acts 19:13-20 (p. 1262)

Read: Commentary (p. 1262)

Reflect: Does simply saying the name of Jesus confer power? Can just saying his name defeat demons?

Dig: What does verse 18 tell you about why the demon had power over these men?

What does Psalm 66:18 (p. 634) add to your understanding of this incident?

If you are habitually angry (or unforgiving, or lustful) what advantage might Satan have in your life?

See Ephesians 4:26-27 (p. 1360) for a biblical answer to this question.

According to the Bible, this incident resulted in many scrolls being burned. Using the data in verse 19 and the information in the footnote, what was the value of these scrolls?

What might be a contemporary incident which is like the one recorded in this chapter?

Apply: Confess your sins, renounce the power of Satan in your life and ask God to take away the foothold that Satan tries to use to limit your power in God and demonstrate his own power.