

SPIRITUAL WARFARE



E N C O U N T E R W E E K

MONDAY

THE

WORLD

This week, as we prepare for our Encounter, we will be doing a three-day study on the three big enemies we face in spiritual warfare: *The World*, *The Flesh*, and *The Devil* (Eph. 2:1-4).

Today, we will start our study on the first major enemy, *The World*. When we talk about “the world,” we are talking about fallen human culture, with its broken ideas, values, and practices, that no longer operates under the good rule of God. Have you noticed how, on our own, we do not always think correctly about how to live? This leads to all sorts of chaos, pain, and confusion in life. Yet, when we surrender to Jesus and let Him transform us by the renewing of our minds, He can rescue us from this darkness and bring us into His Kingdom of light and truth.

Watch the Day One video about *The World* by scanning the QR code below, or by visiting **rockypeak.org/encounter**.

Then, answer the questions on the opposite page.



1. Paul tells us the reason for all the confusion in human culture in **Romans 1:18-23**. Take a moment to reflect on what he says. Can you think of examples from history that prove this to be true? What about from your own life?
2. Despite our rebellion as a race, God did not abandon us to our own brokenness. Read how the Apostle John starts his account of the life of Jesus in **John 1:1-5**.
 - a. John says that Jesus is the light of the world, and that the darkness has not overcome His light. What promise do we find in this for overcoming the darkness of our lost world?
3. How does the Apostle John describe the world in **1 John 2:15-17**? What is his challenge for us as followers of Jesus?
4. Read what Jesus says to the people in His day in **John 12:35-36**, who were questioning Him about the Messiah being “lifted up” (meaning Jesus was predicting His sacrificial death on the cross). What are the warnings and implications of Jesus’ invitation?
5. If we are going to escape the darkness of this world and experience God’s new vision for our lives, we must be transformed. **Read Romans 12:2**. What is the key to this transformation?

a. What do you think Paul means by the “renewing of our minds”?

b. How do you think this happens?

6. If we are going to overcome the world, we need to learn to fight against the destructive ideas all around us. Read what Paul says about fighting this fight in **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**.

a. What does it mean to “take every thought captive and make it obedient to Christ?”

b. What does this look like when you encounter ideologies and ideas and the basic ways our world operates?

7. Again, our hope is in the promise that we are not alone as we do this—Jesus promised to give us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. Spend some time reflecting on what Paul prays for in his letter to the early Christians in **Ephesians 1:17-19a**. Ask God to do the same thing for you as you walk in the light of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit.

T U E S D A Y

T H E

F L E S H

In today's study, we will focus on the second big enemy we face in spiritual warfare, our own *Flesh*. This is the term the Apostle Paul often uses to describe our fallen human nature, with its magnetic pull to what is evil and destructive.

Watch the Day Two video about *The Flesh* by scanning the QR code below, or by visiting **rockypeak.org/encounter**.

Then, answer the questions on the opposite page.



1. The Apostle Paul writes about the flesh in **Galatians 5:13-26**. Read this passage slowly and carefully two or three times. Jot down any words or phrases you sense the Holy Spirit is highlighting for you as you read.

2. Paul tells us that, even as Christ-followers, we still have a *pull* towards the flesh, even though we have received the Holy Spirit. Why do you think that we often find the desires of the flesh tempting, even when we know that they are wrong?
 - a. What role do you think Satan plays in this?

 - b. How do you think he tries to leverage the areas of our flesh in which we are tempted?

3. In **vs. 19-21**, Paul gives several examples of how the flesh can manifest in our lives. In **vs. 22-23**, he contrasts the works of the flesh with the *fruit* that grows in our lives when we are listening to and following the Spirit.
 - a. What differences do you notice when you compare these two lists?

b. What do you notice when you compare the results of following the flesh with the results of following the Spirit?

4. The battle against the flesh is not won through our own strength or power, but by depending on the power of Jesus working through us! Prayer is one of the most important ways we fight, so let's spend some time with Jesus in prayer.

a. Start by confessing any areas of life this past week where you chose to listen and follow the flesh. Invite the Spirit to wash over you and encourage you with the freedom that comes from repentance.

b. Next, bring any areas of temptation before Jesus. Share with Him when and how you feel the most tempted.

c. Finally, ask Jesus to teach you how to depend on His strength to listen and follow the Spirit over the flesh in your daily life.

W E D N E S D A Y

T H E D E V I L

Today, we are wrapping up our three-day Life Group study by focusing on our final enemy, *The Devil*. We will be studying two stories about people who were oppressed by demons. While it's important for us to understand how the enemy operates, we don't need to be fearful of this topic. As the Apostle John reminds us, "The one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). What we learn from Scripture is that Jesus defeated the enemy on the cross, and through faith in Christ, we now share in His power and authority against the enemy.

Watch the Day Three video about *The Devil* by scanning the QR code below, or by visiting **rockypeak.org/encounter**.

Then, answer the questions on the opposite page.



1. During Jesus' ministry, He traveled throughout Galilee, healing the sick and setting free those who were oppressed by demons. In **Luke 8:26-39**, Jesus encounters a demonized man after arriving in the region of the Gerasenes. Read his story and take note of how Jesus meets this man.

a. Read **Luke 8:28** and **8:31** again. Based on these verses, what do the demons know about Jesus?

b. What does this story reveal about the power and authority of Jesus and God's Kingdom?

c. What do we learn about the effect demons can have on a person?

2. In **Acts 19:11-20**, we see a dramatic encounter with demons and the impact this event had on both believers and non-believers in Ephesus. Read this account.

a. In **verse 15**, what do you think the demon meant when he said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?"

b. In **Acts 19:18-19**, those who practiced sorcery burned their scrolls (which could be worth millions of dollars today). What motivated them to do this and destroy them in this way?

c. From this story, what do we learn about the use of supernatural power outside of God's Kingdom?

3. The disciples and other followers of Jesus had great success ministering in Jesus' name and by His authority. Read **Luke 10:17-20** and then **Acts 5:12,16**.

a. Do you believe that we have the same power and authority today to be set free and set others free from the kingdom of darkness? Explain.

4. One way the enemy can have a foothold in our lives is through sin and rebellion. Read **Ephesians 4:26-27** and then **James 4:7**.

a. Why do you think submission to God is required for us to walk in true spiritual authority against the enemy?

5. As Christ-followers, it's important to keep short accounts with the Lord and quickly confess when we sin against Him. Spend some time with the Lord praying this prayer of David. If the Lord shows you any sin or area you need to turn from, confess and renounce it in prayer.

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalms 139:23-24

ENCOUNTER

OCTOBER 1 & 2 AT 7PM

“God has one destined end for mankind, viz., holiness. His one aim is the production of saints. God is not an eternal blessing machine for men; He did not come to save men out of pity: he came to save men because he had created them to be holy. The Atonement means that God can put me back into perfect union with Himself, without shadow between, through the death of Jesus Christ.”

Oswald Chambers

My Utmost for His Highest: Destiny of Holiness

Scriptures to Meditate On

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" **Mark 1:14-15**

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy".....

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

1 Peter 1:13-15 & 18-19

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be, has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure....

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. **1 John 3:1-3 & 7-10**

Step 1 - Reflect

- Do I believe I was created to be holy? Do I believe God can empower me to be holy?
- Are there any areas of my life where I have been influenced by the Enemy's false worldviews or ideologies?
- Is there any sin I have allowed to exist in my life by excusing it?
- Are there any areas where I feel particularly attacked by cannot identify the source?
- What next steps is God calling me to take?

Step 2 - Confess, Repent & Renounce

"Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed" **James 5:16**

If there are areas of your life where the Enemy is controlling, take some time to confess this to God, repent, and renounce these areas of sin.

You may want to do this on your own, or pray with someone else about this.

In James 5, we are told to confess our sins for one another and pray for one another that we may be healed. During this time, we also have some of our pastors, directors, elders and spouses around the edge of the room. If you would like to pray with them over any of these areas of sin or struggle, or for anything else in your life, you can go and receive prayer any time during this session.

Step 3 - Communion

So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. **1 Corinthians 11:27-29**

As we approach the communion table in surrender, we recognize that this is far more than a simple ritual. The bread and the cup are more than symbols; they are tangible emblems of a profound spiritual reality. By partaking of these elements, we not only receive the gift of forgiveness, but we also make public declaration of our faith.

In these moments we align ourselves with Jesus, affirming our loyalty to Him alone. The broken bread reminds us of His body, broken on the cross for our sake, and the wine represents His blood, which established the new covenant and washed away our sins. We are not simply remembering a historical event, we are participating in a continuous testament to Christ's saving power. By sharing in this meal, we are collectively proclaiming that we are on His side, forever marked by His love and bound to Him in an unbreakable covenant.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' **Matthew 26:26-29**