

INTRO

- When you think of spiritual warfare, what comes to mind? Have you ever felt like you were caught in a spiritual battle?

Revelation pulls back the curtain to show the unseen spiritual conflict shaping our world—and calls us to faithful resistance through Christ's victory.

READ

Revelation 12:1-12, 17

[Leaders: Use the questions below as a guide, not a checklist]

REFLECT & RESPOND

Revelation 12 pulls us behind the scenes of history to reveal two great signs—a cosmic conflict playing out through a woman in labour and a dragon on the hunt.

Q: What stands out to you about the woman, child, and dragon?

Q: How does knowing that Satan has already been “hurled down” and defeated affect the way you view present struggles?

The Masks of Evil

Read 13:1-4, 11-18

The beasts represent how Satan continues to wage war on the earth through deception, control, and false worship. The beast from the sea symbolizes corrupt systems of power that blatantly oppose God and His people (cf. Dan 7). The beast from the land is far more subtle, like a false prophet, representing religious and ideological deception that leads people away from Jesus.

Q: What are some modern examples of systems, ideologies, or voices that subtly (or not so subtly)

promise a false gospel and demand your ultimate loyalty?

Living in the Cosmic Battle

Read Rev 12:11. Of the three practices, what is most challenging for you and why?

- Trusting in the complete victory of Jesus.
- Witnessing to the truth of who Jesus is and what he's done.
- Loving Christ more than comfort, security, approval, even safety.

Consider ways to stay alert and grounded. Evil is subtle, and we should avoid being ignorant of or obsessed with it.

Q: What might it look like for you to “stay alert and anchored” in your current stage of life (e.g., as a student, professional, parent)?

Q: How can your group help one another discern the subtle ways in which evil operates through media, ideologies, and cultural pressures?

PRAY

- **Courage** to stand in Christ's victory
- **Boldness** to witness to the truth
- **Wisdom** to discern and resist deception
- **Faithfulness** in everyday worship, witness and allegiance to Jesus.

RESOURCE RECOMMENDATION:

Reading Revelation Responsibly by Michael Gorman (links to amazon.ca)

For anyone feeling lost or intimidated by Revelation, I highly recommend this accessible, non-academic book. It offers a faithful guide to interpreting the text and thoughtfully critiques the common evangelical view of Revelation as an end-times timeline or code to crack.