



Leader's Guide for the Sermon, "Spiritual Warfare"

Ephesians 6:12 | Pastor Dave Bennett | Series: Elephant in the Room | January 4, 2026

Session Overview

This week launches a new series entitled Elephant in the Room, focusing on topics people most want the church to address but often feel uncomfortable talking about. Week one begins with Spiritual Warfare, exploring how the spiritual realm impacts everyday life without drifting into fear, speculation, or paranoia.

Rather than asking Christians to obsess over darkness, this message anchors us in a deeper truth: the closer we are to the Prince of Peace, the less we have to fear the prince of darkness. Through Ephesians 6:12, the church is reminded that people are never the enemy, prayer is not passive, and victory in Christ is already secure.

Session Flow (60–75 minutes)

1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10 min)

Example Question:

"What's a topic you've seen people avoid because it feels uncomfortable or complicated?
Why do you think it's so easy to avoid hard conversations?"

Purpose:

To help the group acknowledge that spiritual warfare is often misunderstood or avoided, and to create space for honest, grounded conversation.

2. Scripture Reading (5 min)

Read Ephesians 6:12 aloud.

Optional: Also read 1 John 4:4 to anchor the discussion in confidence rather than fear.

3. Discussion (40–50 min)

Use 6–8 of the following questions depending on time and group size. Encourage thoughtful reflection and personal application.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do topics like demons, Halloween, or end-times fears capture people's attention so easily when talking about spiritual warfare?

Leader Note: Help the group distinguish curiosity from fear and discernment.

2. How does the statement “The closer you are to the Prince of Peace, the less you have to fear the prince of darkness” reshape your understanding of spiritual warfare?

Leader Note: Emphasize intimacy with Christ as the foundation for peace.

3. Pastor Dave warned that labeling everything as evil can distract us from real evil. What are some real issues that can get overlooked?

Leader Note: Guide the group toward compassion and mission rather than debate.

4. James 1:14 says temptation works through our own desires. How does that change the way we think about spiritual battles?

Leader Note: Highlight subtle, internal battles rather than dramatic ones.

5. How does remembering that our struggle is not against flesh and blood change the way we view difficult people?

Leader Note: Reinforce that people are never the enemy.

6. What does healthy spiritual discernment look like without slipping into paranoia?

Leader Note: Point toward Scripture, prayer, and peace.

7. Which piece of the armor of God do you most need to be intentional about right now?

Leader Note: Encourage practical daily application.

8. How does knowing we fight from victory—not for victory—change how you face anxiety or temptation?

Leader Note: Transition toward hope and prayer.

4. Application and Prayer (10–15 min)

Invite group members to identify one area where fear, anxiety, or misplaced battles have been dominating their thoughts.

Ask: "Where do you need to re-center your heart on the Prince of Peace and trust Jesus more than what you see?"

Allow a moment of silence before inviting anyone to pray aloud.

Closing Prayer Suggestion

Lord Jesus, thank You that our battle is not against people, but against forces we cannot see. Thank You that You are the Prince of Peace and that victory already belongs to You. Help us release fear, stand firm in truth, and fight our battles in prayer. Teach us to trust You more than our circumstances and to walk in confidence, not confusion.

Amen.