

Resources:

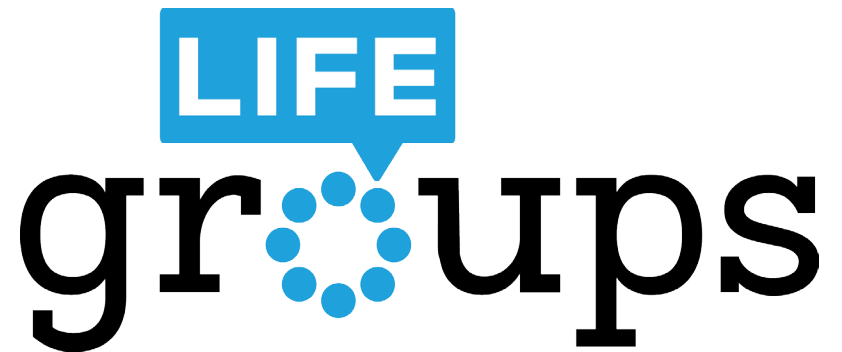
Demons, Lies & Shadows by Dr. Pierre Gilbert

In this book, Gilbert, a local author and professor defines and discuss the impact of spiritual warfare on our lives. This book is available at most local bookstores.

The Main Point:

C.S. Lewis said, "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors."

NOTES + PRAYER REQUESTS:



Part 5: Spiritual Warfare

Begin by watching the "Info for the Group" portion of the DVD and then here are a few questions to get you going:

- ___ What was your high and low from the past week?
- ___ To get your conversation started this week, here is a question: If you had an entire day to yourself, how would you spend it?

PLEASE WATCH THE DVD'S "MAIN SESSION"

INTRODUCTION

This week, we discuss the idea of spiritual warfare and what that means to us today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you determine what is good or what is evil?

Andrew Delbanco said, "A gulf has opened up in our culture between the visibility of evil and the intellectual resources available for coping with it." Meaning, in the western world, we often try to explain evil away with scientific, social or psychological explanations – but these are "wearing thin" in their attempt to explain great atrocities.

2. Do you agree or disagree with the above thought? How have you seen people try to explain or rationalize the evil situations that take place in our world?
3. **2 Corinthians 2:11** says, "Do not be unaware of the devil's devices." C.S. Lewis stated that there are two common errors we make when it comes to the devil. The first is to *overestimate* the devil's strength, the other is to *not believe* in the devil at all. What is your reaction to this statement?
4. In the 1600s a pastor named Richard Baxter wrote a book on cause and helps for depression. He lists 5 potential causes and cures:

<u>Cause</u>	<u>Cure</u>
1. Physical	You need medicine, food or rest
2. Psychological	You need love and affirmation
3. Moral (feel guilty)	Repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation
4. Demonic	Prayer, deliverance
5. A Combination of two or more above.	

What do you think about the balanced and nuanced approach he takes to explain the problems we face?

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

5. The devil often uses two categories of lies: temptation (where we think we can do whatever we want) and accusation (where we have self-hating view of ourselves and doubt God's mercy). For example:

Temptation:

- _ Rationalize sin as virtue. "I'm not really greedy. I'm thrifty."
- _ "I've suffered. I deserve this."
- _ Getting you to compare one part of your life to another.

Accusation:

- _ Getting us to look more at our sin than at our Saviour.
- _ Causing Christians to obsess over past sins that have done damage, that can't be undone.
- _ Making Christians think: Real Christians couldn't possibly have the inner struggles and feelings they have.

Which of these are you most likely to struggle with?

6. On Sunday, Dustin said we fight the devil's devices in several ways. One, is to understand the specific devices Satan uses on you. A second way is to work the gospel – the reality that Jesus died for your sins – into every area of our life. How can these two elements help you to overcome the evil one's activity in your life?

BE SURE TO PRAY TOGETHER AS A GROUP...

- _ What are some things going on in your life that need prayer?