

4 WEEKS



W A R R I O R



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SMALL GROUP STUDY



Kicking it off:

Who is the first person/character to come to mind when you hear the word warrior? Why?

Big Idea:

God has given every warrior someone to protect, a kingdom to advance, and a battle to win.

Key Scriptures:

Exodus 15:3 *"The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name."*

Matthew 10:34 *"Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."*

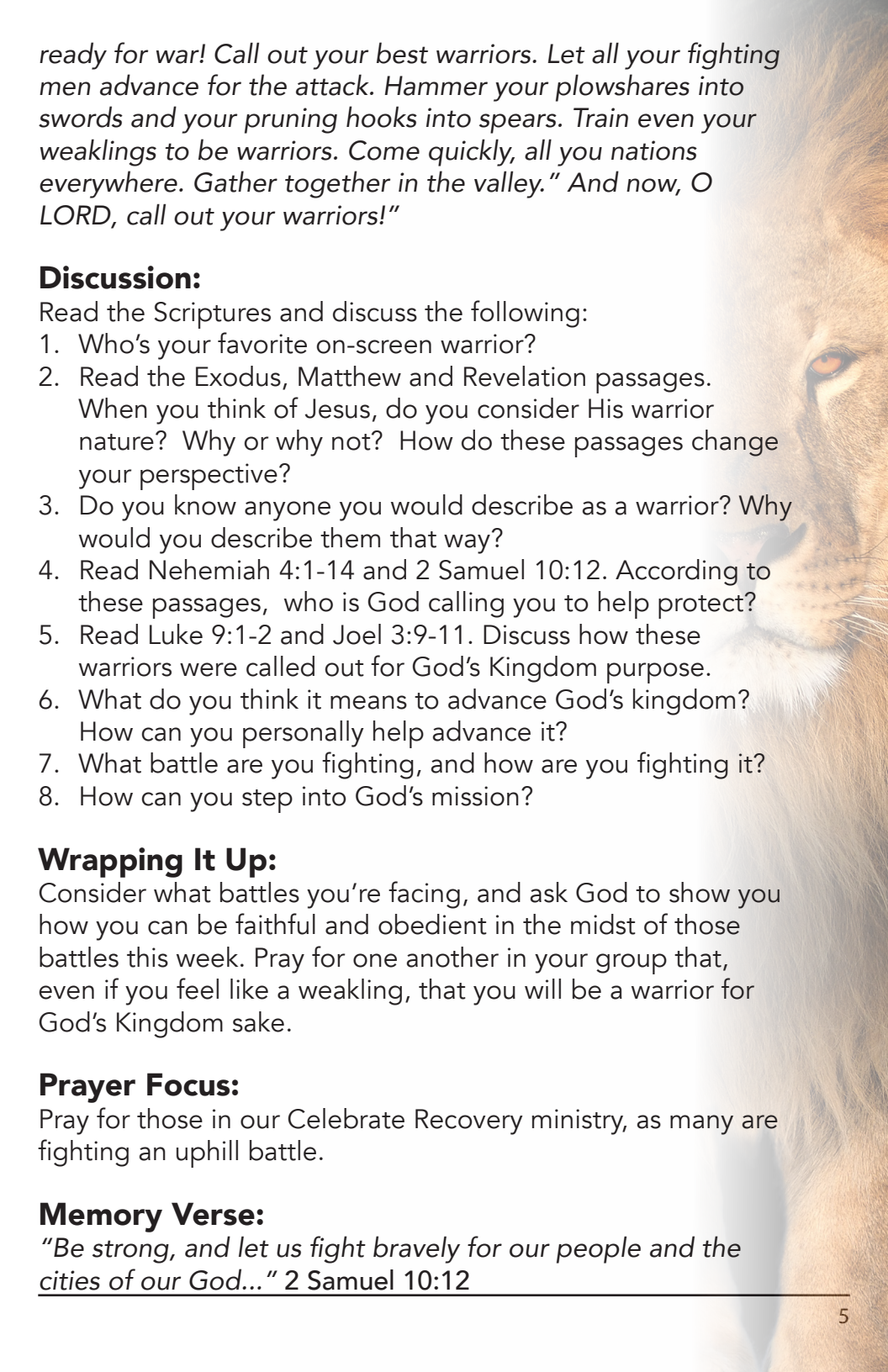
Revelation 19:11-13, 15-16 *"I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. ...He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ... Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ... On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: king of kings and lord of lords."*

Nehemiah 4:14 *"... Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your families, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."*

2 Samuel 10:12 *"Be strong, and let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God..."*

Luke 9:1-2 *"When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."*

Joel 3:9-11 NLT *"Say to the nations far and wide: "Get*



ready for war! Call out your best warriors. Let all your fighting men advance for the attack. Hammer your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Train even your weaklings to be warriors. Come quickly, all you nations everywhere. Gather together in the valley." And now, O LORD, call out your warriors!"

Discussion:

Read the Scriptures and discuss the following:

1. Who's your favorite on-screen warrior?
2. Read the Exodus, Matthew and Revelation passages. When you think of Jesus, do you consider His warrior nature? Why or why not? How do these passages change your perspective?
3. Do you know anyone you would describe as a warrior? Why would you describe them that way?
4. Read Nehemiah 4:1-14 and 2 Samuel 10:12. According to these passages, who is God calling you to help protect?
5. Read Luke 9:1-2 and Joel 3:9-11. Discuss how these warriors were called out for God's Kingdom purpose.
6. What do you think it means to advance God's kingdom? How can you personally help advance it?
7. What battle are you fighting, and how are you fighting it?
8. How can you step into God's mission?

Wrapping It Up:

Consider what battles you're facing, and ask God to show you how you can be faithful and obedient in the midst of those battles this week. Pray for one another in your group that, even if you feel like a weakling, that you will be a warrior for God's Kingdom sake.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for those in our Celebrate Recovery ministry, as many are fighting an uphill battle.

Memory Verse:

"Be strong, and let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God..." 2 Samuel 10:12

SMALL GROUP STUDY



week 2

Kicking it off:

What's the most wimpy thing you've ever done?

Big Idea:

God calls you out of your fear to be a mighty warrior.

Key Scriptures:

Judges 6:11-12

"The angel of the LORD came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezerite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the LORD appeared to Gideon, he said, "The LORD is with you, mighty warrior!"

Judges 6:14-15 NLT

"Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites I am sending you!" "But Lord", Gideon replied, "how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least in my entire family!"

Judges 7:2 NLT

"The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many warriors with you. If I let all of you fight the Midianites, the Israelites will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength."

Judges 7:21

"While each man held his position around the camp, all the Midianites ran, crying out as they fled."

Ephesians 6:13

"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

Discussion:

1. Do you have a fear or phobia you wish you could

conquer? What is it?

2. What's your first instinct when conflict comes your way? Do you tend to fight, flee, or freeze?
3. Read the about Gideon in the Judges passages. The Lord called Gideon, who was the weakest person from the weakest clan, to rescue Israel from the Midianites. What message do you think God was/is trying to send by doing that?
4. Share an experience where you felt God calling you to do something that you were unqualified for. What happened?
5. What big insecurity holds you back from what God is calling you to do?
6. Read Ephesians 6:13. Discuss what it means to put on the armor of God. (read the rest of Ephesians 6 for a clue)
7. What spiritual resource (armor) are you under utilizing as you're engaging in the spiritual battle? What enemy is most likely to cause you to fall?
8. How can you make better use of that under utilized resource going forward?
9. Every warrior's greatest pain is regret. What would be your greatest regret at the end of this year if you don't take action?

Wrapping It Up:

Choose one piece of the armor of God and commit to strengthening yourself in that area this week. Share that with your group.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for one another in your group that you will be able to put on the full armor of God and stand against your spiritual enemy.

Memory Verse:

"Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand." Ephesians 6:13

SMALL GROUP STUDY



Kicking it off:

How did you come about your way of thinking when it comes to pornography?

Big Idea:

Pornography destroys lives.

Key Scriptures:

2 Samuel 11:1-4

"In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her ..."

Psalms 32 :3-5

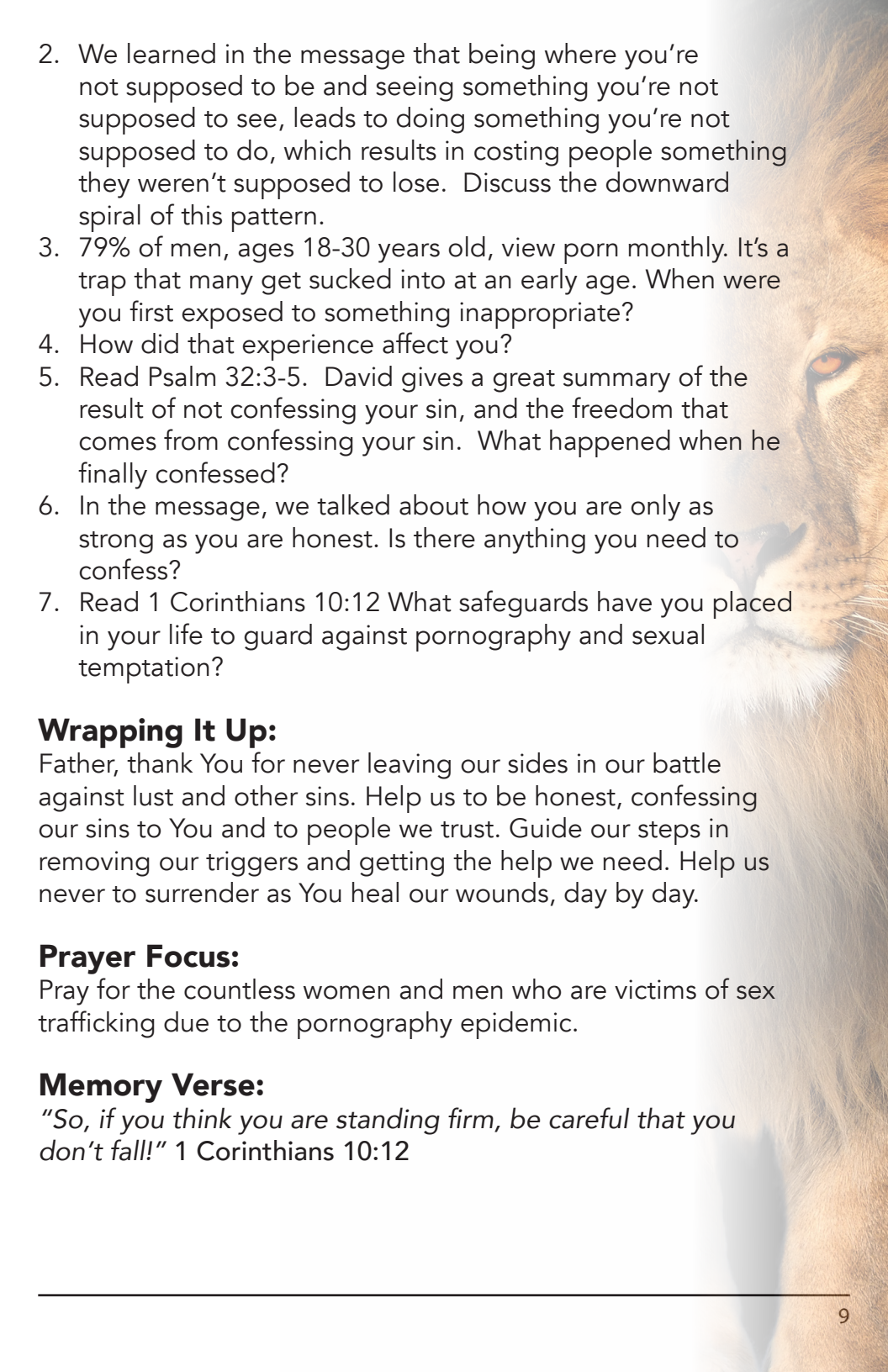
"When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me. All my guilt is gone."

1 Corinthians 10:12

"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!"

Discussion:

1. Recount David's story as written in 2 Samuel 11. What was David's first mistake?

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2. We learned in the message that being where you're not supposed to be and seeing something you're not supposed to see, leads to doing something you're not supposed to do, which results in costing people something they weren't supposed to lose. Discuss the downward spiral of this pattern.
 3. 79% of men, ages 18-30 years old, view porn monthly. It's a trap that many get sucked into at an early age. When were you first exposed to something inappropriate?
 4. How did that experience affect you?
 5. Read Psalm 32:3-5. David gives a great summary of the result of not confessing your sin, and the freedom that comes from confessing your sin. What happened when he finally confessed?
 6. In the message, we talked about how you are only as strong as you are honest. Is there anything you need to confess?
 7. Read 1 Corinthians 10:12 What safeguards have you placed in your life to guard against pornography and sexual temptation?

Wrapping It Up:

Father, thank You for never leaving our sides in our battle against lust and other sins. Help us to be honest, confessing our sins to You and to people we trust. Guide our steps in removing our triggers and getting the help we need. Help us never to surrender as You heal our wounds, day by day.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for the countless women and men who are victims of sex trafficking due to the pornography epidemic.

Memory Verse:

"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" 1 Corinthians 10:12

SMALL GROUP STUDY



Kicking it off:

Who do you think is the best on-screen father? Why?

Big Idea:

There are three things every warrior needs to hear: I believe in you. I'm proud of you. I'll always love you.

Key Scriptures:

Matthew 3:16-17

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I am well pleased."

Discussion:

1. Every guardian has strengths. Think about how you were raised. What was a blessing about how you grew up?
2. Every guardian has weaknesses, too. What was challenging about how you grew up?
3. Read Matthew 3:16-17 God the Father told Jesus three things at His baptism: "I believe in You," "I'm proud of You," and "I will always love You." Which of these three things did you miss hearing as you were growing up?
4. How has that impacted you in your life?
5. If you have a "father wound", how might you allow God to heal that wound as your perfect and loving Heavenly Father?
6. Which of those three affirmations do you think you most need to express to the people in your life?
7. Consider how God is calling you to grow as a warrior this week. However He prompts you, put that call into action.

Wrapping It Up:

God, thank You for being such a good Father. Thank You for the real affection and affirmation You show each of us. Teach us to show those around us the same care You extend to us. Help us to rise up as men and women of faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our kids and student ministries, that those who have absent parents can experience the love of the Father through those ministries.

Memory Verse:

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I am well pleased."
Matthew 3:16-17 NIV

NOTES:

NOTES:

Top 10 Tips for Leading a Small Group

1. Establish a welcoming, accepting, and safe environment.
 - Take time to prepare.
 - Make sure to give a warm enthusiastic greeting to each person.
 - Verbally communicate the environment that you hope to create.
 - Ephesians 4:1-3
2. On the opening night of your group you need to have some intentional discussions centered around these questions:
 - What is the purpose of our group?
 - What is the vision for our group?
 - What are your expectations?
 - What do you hope to gain from this group experience?
 - What are some things we value as a group?
 - What are some healthy guidelines we need to have in place?Review and sign a group agreement.
3. Be authentic. Spend time sharing your life stories in order to get to know each other on a deeper level.
4. Find a good balance between:
 - Truth and grace/Bible study and life
 - Encouraging and challenging one another
 - Giving and receiving feedback from each other
5. Ask good questions to stimulate good discussion. Use open ended questions and follow up questions.
6. Hang out together, do things socially, eat together and have fun together!
7. Develop a missional lifestyle, find a service project to do together in the community.
8. Raise up new leadership by rotating facilitation of the group.
9. Share the responsibilities in order to increase individual commitment and ownership of the group.
10. Pray for your group and for each other!

Find ways to celebrate what God is doing in your group! Who else could you invite to join you in order that their life may be impacted by what God is doing in your group?

Group Agreement

OUR PURPOSE

To transform our spiritual lives by cultivating our spiritual health in a healthy small group community. In addition, we: _____

OUR VALUES

Group Attendance: To give priority to the group meeting. We will call or email if we will be late or absent.

Safe Environment: To help create a safe place where people can be heard and feel loved. (Please, no quick answers, snap judgments, or simple fixes.)

Respect Differences: To be gentle and gracious to people with different spiritual maturity, personal opinions, temperaments, or imperfections. We are all works in progress.

Confidentiality: To keep anything that is shared strictly confidential and within the group, and to avoid sharing improper information about those outside the group.

Encouragement for Growth: To be not just takers but givers of life. We want to spiritually multiply our life by serving others with our God-given gifts.

Welcome for Newcomers: To keep an open chair and share Jesus' dream of finding a shepherd for every sheep.

Shared Ownership: To remember that every member is a minister and to ensure that each attender will share a small team role or responsibility over time.

Rotating Hosts/Leaders and Homes: To encourage different people to host the group in their homes, and to rotate the responsibility of facilitating each meeting.

OUR EXPECTATIONS

- Refreshments/mealtimes _____
- Childcare _____
- When we will meet (day of week) _____
- Where we will meet (place) _____
- We will begin at (time) _____ and end at _____
- We will do our best to have some or all of us attend a worship service together.
- Our primary worship service time will be _____
- Date of this agreement _____
- Date we will review this agreement again _____
- Who (other than the leader) will review this agreement at the end of this study _____



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