

## “When the City Meets Jesus”

**Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.**

### Message Summary

Paul returned to Ephesus while Apollos was in Corinth. “Ephesus was the home of the Temple of Artemis (the Greek goddess Diana), one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The temple, according to its ruins, was 239’ wide and 418’ long, four times the size of the Parthenon in Athens! As a commercial center, Ephesus was the leading city of the province of Asia. Its present-day extensive ruins reveal the glory of its past...During Paul’s time the city was approaching its zenith.”<sup>1</sup> Ephesus was also a wealthy, yet immoral, city. “The multi-storied residences of its upper-middle-class society rested on the north terraces of Mt Koressos. Some homes had mosaic floors and marble walls. Two were found with heated bathrooms. Many had running water. The moral status of the city can be partially ascertained from a centrally located house of prostitution and gambling tables; fertility motifs are evident in the exaggerated sexual features of the Diana statues.”<sup>2</sup> Something, however, was about to change when the city came face to face with Jesus.

Paul found some followers of John and helped them understand salvation and the present power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. These men publically identified with Christ through baptism and began to immediately live for Him. As Paul continued to minister in the city he discovered there were some in the synagogue who rejected his message so he took the disciples of Jesus to a local school and taught them the Word daily for two years. This resulted in everyone in Asia hearing the Gospel!

God was also performing extraordinary miracles by Paul’s hand. These miracles were so extraordinary that even clothing that had touched Paul’s body was being used to heal people of sickness and cast out demons. Some unbelievers who were greedy for personal gain tried to invoke the name of Jesus in order to cast out demons but they were quickly discovered when the demons beat them up! People became so fearful of all that was happening that they turned to Jesus and began to praise Him for all that He was doing. Lives were being transformed and priorities were being changed. All this was happening because the city came face to face with Jesus!

What should it look like when your city meets Jesus? While many people in your city may know Jesus, the truth is, many do not. What if an overwhelming number of people were faced with the reality of all that Jesus had accomplished? What would happen if many turned to Him? As you prepare to meet with your MC this week think through these question but also recognize that missional living will result in spiritual warfare. This week Jeff Vanderstelt will lead us through the nature of spiritual warfare and how to battle the enemy as you seek to help your city meet Jesus!

### Message Outline

When the city meets Jesus...

1. People are redeemed.
2. The Holy Spirit is present.
3. The Gospel is spread.
4. Miracles happen.
5. Greed is exposed.
6. Jesus is praised.
7. Priorities are changed.

<sup>1</sup> Toussaint, S. D. (1985). Acts. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 409). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>2</sup> Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (p. 710). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

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## Group Discussion (video application)

Watch the video titled “Spiritual Warfare – Part #1.” Use the Listening Guide below as you watch the video and then spend some time making application by answering the following questions as a group.

### The Nature of Spiritual Warfare

1. We need to be \_\_\_\_\_ . (Ephesians 6:18, 1 Peter 5:8)
2. Be not \_\_\_\_\_ . (1 John 4:4)
3. Be \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ (James 4:4, 1 John 2:15-17, 2 Corinthians 4:4)
    - Leads to a life of endless \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - You are at the \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - Ask Jesus to set them \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ (Galatians 5:19-20, Romans 7:18, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 8:9)
    - Outlook oriented toward the \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - In our flesh we can't do \_\_\_\_\_ .
    - Put to \_\_\_\_\_ the flesh so you can live life in the \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ (John 12:31, Ephesians 6:10-11, 2 Timothy 2:23-26)
    - You don't have to be \_\_\_\_\_ – Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ !
    - Schemes of the devil:
      - \_\_\_\_\_ ; it's a \_\_\_\_\_ .
      - \_\_\_\_\_ ; twisting God's \_\_\_\_\_ or charade as \_\_\_\_\_ of light.
      - \_\_\_\_\_ .
      - \_\_\_\_\_ .
      - \_\_\_\_\_ .

### Questions for reflection:

1. Which one of these do you most consistently struggle with – is it the world or the flesh or the devil?
2. As an MC, how can we better stand against the evil one and look to Jesus, walk in the Spirit, and be eager to live in the kingdom reality, rather than the world?
3. Take some time and pray for each other. Pray for each other in the areas of struggle that have been discussed in this session.

### Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**  
Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.
- **Local:**  
Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- **Global:**  
Pray that God would give us hearts for the nations.