

SMALL-GROUP STUDY GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

This study guide is designed for you and the members of your small group to use *after* reading the part(s) assigned to each session. The goal is for you to dive deeper, wrestle harder, and sense God’s presence and affirmation through processing and praying about what you are learning.

The study guide has seven sessions. However, if your group wants to move faster or more slowly, simply adjust the reading assignments and use of questions accordingly.

1. Read the chapters.

Each session (except number 4) covers one part of *The Necessity of an Enemy*. As you read the chapters, make notes or highlight passages in the book that speak to, challenge, or apply to you *personally*. In your reading and reflection, ask the Lord to reveal insights so that when you come to the study guide section, you will be equipped to benefit the most from the questions.

2. Pray and begin the discussion.

At the start of each session, spend some time in prayer together. Next, one person should read the brief review aloud to remind everyone of the focus of the discussion. The leader should then invite the group to share any questions, concerns, “aha” moments, insights, or comments arising out of their personal time with the material.

3. Read the key scripture aloud.

The key scripture is a verse or short biblical passage directly related to the theme of the part or parts being considered in that session. It’s

ideal for memorizing. And of course you can consult your Bible at any time to bring in other relevant Bible passages to enrich your discussion.

4. Go through the questions.

The questions are designed to focus on how each person in the group related to the main topics of the parts. Remember, the questions are there to serve the group and encourage discussion, not to elicit a particular answer. With that in mind, *don't race through the questions*. Take your time and allow the Holy Spirit to work. It is also not necessary to “go around the table” or “the circle” before you move on to the next question. The best discussions occur when people feel free to speak into the discussion. The group discussion is actually an opportunity to allow God's Spirit to minister uniquely through one believer to another in specific ways. Relax and trust God to take the discussion where He wants to take it. Remember, if God isn't in this, you are wasting your time anyway. If you don't get through all the questions for a session, no worries.

5. Note the “to remember” statements.

These are a few of the impact statements from the part or parts under discussion. They help to crystallize the focus of what you're considering. You may want to adopt some of these as mottoes for living.

6. Close each session in prayer.

Praying together is the most powerful way to make your discussion effective, meaningful, and authentic. Do not neglect it! Share your requests with others in the group. Expect God to hear and respond to your prayers. The study guide provides a prayer that you can use as is or adapt as you see fit.

Before your first session:

Please read the introductory material and part 1 of *The Necessity of an Enemy* before getting together with your group for session 1. As you do so, think about your personal experience in battling an enemy.

SESSION 1

Based on the introductory material (page 1) and part 1, "The Necessity" (page 15)

Review:

Isn't it stunning to realize that Jesus called Peter "Satan" and called Judas "Friend"? Peter, by objecting to Christ's upcoming sacrifice, was standing in the way of Jesus's mission of winning salvation for sinners. But Judas, through his betrayal of Jesus (as wicked as that was), helped Jesus accomplish that mission.

The author of *The Necessity of an Enemy*, Ron Carpenter Jr., also experienced an enemy. His enemy came in the form of an unjust lawsuit over a scam he had nothing to do with. This experience got him thinking about the nature of enemies in our lives. We all face enemies, he concluded, but if we understand them, we can use them to cooperate with the movement of God in our lives.

But why are enemies necessary? Because God has assigned a purpose to each of our lives. Satan tries to thwart that purpose by using enemies to stymie us. God, in His turn, subverts Satan's attempts so that our purpose isn't hindered but advanced.

Key scripture:

"Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17).

Questions:

1. If you don't already know the members of your small group very well, ask:
 - What is your name?
 - Is there anything you want to say about your family, work, or favorite leisure activities?
 - Why are you interested in reading and discussing this book?
2. *The Necessity of an Enemy* is based on a provocative idea: that the hard things we're going through can be opportunities to move ahead in

God's plan. "The right fight can be a good thing in your life," says the author. *What's your initial reaction to the idea behind this book? Are you already on board with it, or are you more skeptical? Why?*

3. The author defines an *enemy* this way: "any circumstance, any person, any deep-seated sin, any crippling character flaw—really anything the devil can dream up—that threatens the completion of God's purpose for your life." *What would you identify as the enemy (or enemies) you're facing right now? What's the battle been like for you? What harm has the enemy (or enemies) inflicted on you?*

4. Standing behind your enemy is *the Enemy*—Satan, the adversary of all whom God loves. For a moment, do what military strategists do and try to think like your enemy. *Why would Satan want the particular enemy in your life to succeed?*

5. What the devil means for harm, God turns to good. That's why the author describes the appearance of an enemy as a potential turning point: "The arrival of an enemy in your life is a sign to you that this present season you're in is finally coming to an end." *How would you describe the season of life you're in right now? What season do you believe (or at least hope) that God is going to take you into next? How can your battle help in that transition?*

6. The battleground in your life is the fulfillment of God's purpose for you. *As best you understand it right now, what is God's purpose for your life? If you're uncertain about it, who can you talk to, or what can you do, to begin getting a clearer picture of your purpose?*

7. *What questions do you hope to find answers for as you continue to read and discuss this book?*

Prayer:

Dear God, to be honest, it's a challenge for us to see our battles as opportunities. But we ask You to open our eyes to see our circumstances as You see them. Fill us with courage to prevail over our enemies in such a way that Your purpose is fulfilled in us—and the devil goes away grinding his teeth. By faith, we accept the adventure You're taking us on. In Jesus's name, amen.

To remember:

- There's a Goliath, a Pharaoh, a Satan standing between you and who you are destined to become.
- An enemy arising in your life is a key indicator that the next stage of your future is about to be born.
- God has intent about every person's life, which means no one was a mistake.

For next time:

Please read part 2, "The Plan," before getting back together with your group for session 2. Be alert to signs that God intends to use your battle with your enemies to fulfill His purposes in your life.

SESSION 2

Based on part 2, “The Plan” (page 27)

Review:

It’s a privilege for us to progressively discover and live out our purpose in life. But we need to know that it paints a bull’s-eye on each of our backs, for Satan wants to defeat our purpose whenever he can. And this isn’t just a matter of his preventing us from *doing* something; he’s trying to prevent us from *being* the people God intended us to be.

So we’re engaged in a long-term—indeed lifelong—battle. Our God-given potential lies within us like a seed. Satan is trying to snatch that seed away before it can take root, grow, and flower. God, meanwhile, is patiently working to preserve our purpose and make us bear fruit. And because He sees the future, He knows already that we *will* accomplish all He intends for us. Test after test, level by level, we’re rising to the place He has established for us.

Key scripture:

“He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).

Questions:

1. Ron says, “What an awesome responsibility we each have to discover our individual purpose, because it will affect not only our lives but also the lives of other people now and for generations.” *Remind the group of what you think your God-given purpose is. How do you think your purpose will affect your life? How might it affect the lives of others?*
2. “Just as much as God intends for your assignment to be completed,” says the author, “there is an enemy who intends for it to never take

place. That's why you can't ever give up." *Remind the group of what you see as your current enemy (or enemies). Lately, have you been tempted to give up in your battle? How can the rest of the group help you keep going?*

3. Here's a truth Satan doesn't want to accept: "Whatever identity God has established for you, that's what you are, and battling an enemy will bring that identity to light when you face and defeat that enemy." *How is battling your current enemy helping you to clarify your life purpose?*

4. Part 2 warns against getting impatient about God bringing His purpose to fruition in our lives, since God's perspective on time is very different from ours. *If you've been impatient about an improvement in your situation, describe what that's been about. What do you think it will take for you to trust—and rest—in God's timing?*

5. Speaking about the devil, the author says, "He is after the dream that has not been born, the vision that has not come to pass. He is after the you that you can be, the identity and the life you're not living out yet." This is the seed concept: your purpose lies inside you like a seed, and God and the devil are both contending over it. *Describe your "seed"—your potential—as best you understand it.*

6. Ron says, “If God has started something in your life, He already knows that it has been completed.” *What do you think this means?* He goes on to say, “And He wants you to begin seeing it the same way.” *How can you do that?*

7. According to part 2, a time of testing evaluates what you have learned in the previous season of your life. *What is your current battle with your enemy testing you on? Are you passing or failing, and why?*

8. *Right now, where does your confidence level stand about gaining victory over your enemy? Why?* Remember this promise from part 2: “God, in His greatness, has a way to take your right, your wrong, your good, your bad, your apathy, your ambition, your mistakes, and your successes—to take it all and make it fit the picture of your life that He crafted from the very beginning.”

Prayer:

Lord, we're beginning to see how high the stakes really are in the battles we're facing in our lives. Don't let the devil destroy the seed You've planted in each of us! Help us to prevail over our enemies and fulfill the potential You've given us. Show us what we need to learn at each stage in our lives. Do much good through us, we ask, and we'll give You the glory. In Christ's name, amen.

To remember:

- To God, your life is a finished picture, beautifully painted on a canvas, and He is watching parts of it unfold every day.
- Real trouble will not come in life to challenge what you're doing; it will come to test who you are.
- Every day on earth you are actually becoming what you already are!

For next time:

Please read part 3, "The Target," before getting back together with your group for session 3. Pray for God to give you His perspective on the persecution you are facing.

SESSION 3

Based on part 3, "The Target" (page 55)

Review:

The battle we're engaged in with our enemy is not fun. It's not easy. But if we look at it in the right way—from God's perspective—that will make all the difference.

Jesus told us to consider that we are blessed when we are persecuted. *Blessed.* How about that for a different way of looking at hard circumstances! But it's true: fighting the good fight against an enemy leads us into the future God has planned for us. That *is* blessing.

In the midst of persecution, we have to see with the eyes of faith. God has planted an image inside us of what He wants to do through us. We have to believe in it and, by faith, work to make it a reality. Instead of letting the Enemy distract us with the trouble that's going on around us, we have to stay focused on what God has said to us. We have to ignore the negative things said by others that would draw us away from our purpose. We have to wait in the expectancy

that God will bring about what He's promised, ready to act when the opportunity comes.

And it will.

Key scripture:

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10).

Questions:

1. *What kind of persecution, if any, are you currently undergoing?*
(Keep in mind that persecution doesn't always mean being boiled in oil. It can also mean more subtle mistreatment, such as being dissed or ignored.)
2. Commenting on Matthew 5:10, Ron says, "When you've got people misunderstanding you, lying to you, and coming against you, God says He wants you to start praising, because the fact that they're talking about you means *you are blessed!*" *What testimony can you give that this surprising statement is true?*
3. The author refers to what he calls a *faith image*. "It is an image God gives you that you can fulfill by your faith," he explains. "You can bring it to pass and make it a living reality." *What is the faith image God has given you?*

4. The devil wants you to live by *sight*—focusing on the threatening things you see all around you. God wants you to live by *faith*—trusting what He’s told you. *Describe the faith/sight dilemma you find yourself in right now.*

5. *How have negative people been trying to weaken your passion for your dream? How has God been trying to fan the flame of that passion?*

6. Part 3 defines waiting in active terms. It’s like sitting in ambush—you’re crouched and alert, ready to spring into action whenever God gives you an opportunity to fulfill the dream He’s placed in your heart. *What do you need to do to wait like that for victory against your enemy?*

7. Ron says that Satan is “being used as a pawn of God, a catapult to propel you toward your destiny.” *What evidence do you see of this in your life?*

Prayer:

Thank You for allowing us to fight the battles we’re in, Lord, for we realize they are necessary for us to achieve Your great and good purposes. But it’s hard, Lord. Our suffering is vivid; the image of Your plan within us is dim. So strengthen our faith. Help us to see what You want us to see. And bring us through the season of persecution to a new season of victory and advance. Amen.

To remember:

- Your perspective on persecution will impact your process, plans, and potential.
- The opposite of faith is sight.
- An enemy will always try to weaken your passion for your dream.
- If you are passively living life, it's going to pass you right by and your enemies will tear you to pieces.

For next time:

Please read parts 4 and 5 of *The Necessity of an Enemy* before getting back together with your group for session 4. Take note of the skirmishes and assaults carried out in the battlefield of your mind.

SESSION 4

Based on part 4, "The Enemy Within" (page 71), and part 5, "Weapons of Mass Destruction" (page 97)

Review:

Parts 4 and 5 have something in common: they're both about the spiritual fighting that goes on *inside* us—in our hearts and minds.

In part 4 Ron says, "Sometimes the toughest foe to conquer is the one living beneath your own skin." Our minds can imagine fetters that keep us in a prison that doesn't even exist. Our flesh, or sinful natures, can draw us into doing something that our spirit knows is wrong. Our natural human weakness can present openings for our enemy to do its worst. Our doubts can prevent us from trusting the leading of the Lord.

Following up, in part 5 Ron describes weapons of mass destruction our enemy can use against us. Ron says, "They're so dangerous because...they tend to be unobtrusive. They are often stealthy, silent, and disguised. Their appearance is gradual, and instead of mounting a frontal attack, they tend to snipe at you from behind over time and wear you down."

- Weapon 1: Isolation
- Weapon 2: The immature kid in you
- Weapon 3: Out-of-control feelings
- Weapon 4: False ideas about yourself
- Weapon 5: Hidden fears
- Weapon 6: Resurrection of an old thing
- Weapon 7: Ignorance
- Weapon 8: Pride
- Weapon 9: Familiarity
- Weapon 10: Bad thinking

Key scripture:

“As [a man] thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7).

Questions:

1. Ron tells the story of his dog that wouldn't pass an invisible electric fence even when the dog was not wearing the specialized collar. *How is a past struggle limiting your freedom and initiative today—simply by acting upon your mind?*

2. *Can you think of a time when you blamed the devil for something you did wrong, when in fact you needed to take the blame yourself? If so, describe it. If not—without using names—describe a time when you heard someone else do this.*

3. Ron says, “One thing God despises is when someone throws away a long-term blessing to satisfy a temporary desire.” *If you’re willing, give an example of a time when your “flesh,” or sinful nature, led you to indulge in an ungodly desire. What were the costs?*

4. In part 4 Ron explores a fascinating passage in Isaiah 10 that speaks about an ox growing so “fat,” or large, that it breaks the yoke from its own neck. Ron says this means that, through steady spiritual growth, we can in time throw off the burden that our enemy has put upon us. *What spiritual practices are you engaging in to ensure long-term growth in Christ? What hope do they give you for victory over your enemies?*

5. In a military battle, one side will often concentrate its firepower on the other side’s weakest point. And it’s the same in spiritual warfare. The Enemy attacks your dominant weakness, whether that’s pride, lust, poor self-esteem, or whatever. *What is your dominant weakness, and how have you been attacked there? What can you do to shore up your defenses in that area of your life?*

6. *Have you ever struggled with depression? If so, what advice can you give about dealing with it in a wise and godly way?*

7. Ron says that sometimes we're like Peter, who went back to his old career of fishing when Jesus died—we “keep the boat around just in case.” In other words, instead of fully committing to follow Jesus, we hold on to a backup plan in case things don't work out the way we want. *Do you have a “boat”? What is your “boat”?*
8. Part 5 describes ten weapons our enemy can use against us. *Which of these weapons has done the most damage in your life, and how? Mention one or two.*

Prayer:

Lord, we confess that we are responsible for many of the setbacks we've experienced. Forgive us. And then strengthen our minds, spirits, and wills to resist the encroachment of the Enemy. May Your power be so evident within us that the Enemy can do nothing but flee! Amen.

To remember:

- Today's decisions are tomorrow's reality.
- An enemy is anyone or anything that feeds your dominant weakness.
- Don't let the Enemy manipulate your emotions to get you off track and off purpose.
- Wherever your life is going, you get there “head” first.

For next time:

Please read part 6, “Prowling Your Neighborhood,” before getting back together with your group for session 5. Be on the lookout for signs that your struggle is being played out within your dearest relationships.

SESSION 5

Based on part 6, “Prowling Your Neighborhood” (page 125)

Review:

One of the saddest results of war is the “collateral damage”—the death and injury caused among noncombatants, including women and children. And then there’s the tragedy of civil war—brother fighting against brother. Both kinds of tragedies can happen in our battle with our enemy.

Our close relationships—with parents, siblings, spouse, children, good friends, business partners, and so on—are so important to us that it’s no wonder they become battlegrounds. We have to keep in mind the realities of human nature: all of us are capable of both good and evil, and all of us have limitations that will cause us to fall short of others’ expectations. But still, we can’t let anyone, even someone we love dearly, prevent us from doing what God has called us to.

With all this in mind, we must be wise and follow guidelines like these:

- Avoid people who say they want to be our friends but who are really our enemies.
- Watch out for friends who would betray us to our enemies.
- Avoid close association with people who don’t see things substantially the way we do.
- Be slow and cautious about admitting people into intimacy with us.
- Recognize that only a few relationships are meant to be permanent; most are just for a season.
- Protect our children—because the Enemy would love to snuff out their potential.

Key scripture:

“A man’s enemies will be those of his own household” (Matthew 10:36).

Questions:

1. *How have the members of your family, or others close to you, suffered as a result of your struggle with an enemy?*
2. The author points out that some conflict is simply the result of unrealistic expectations—thinking that others can be better than, or different than, they are. *Can you give an example to illustrate this from your own life?*
3. *Have you ever had a loved one or good friend try to prevent you from fulfilling God’s plan for your life? If so, describe it. What did you learn about overcoming the obstacle without rejecting the person?*
4. Ron describes “wolves in sheep’s clothing” (people who seem to be friends but are really enemies) and “Judases” (people who are truly your friends but who nevertheless are capable of selling you out to your enemies). *Describe a run-in you’ve had with one or both of these dangerous types of people. How can we recognize a “wolf” or a “Judas” before such a person does us harm?*

5. Ron says, “I observe it every day: people give sensitive things away to others who haven’t yet earned it.” *What trouble have you gotten into by letting someone get too close to you too fast?*

6. In this part, Ron repeats an illustration by T. D. Jakes: Some people are like buildings—they’re permanent parts of our lives. Others are like scaffolding—they help us in building who we are but aren’t meant to remain in our lives forever. *Give an example of someone God has assigned to you for your lifetime. Then give an example of someone who has entered your life only for a season. Why is it important to discern the difference between the two types of relationships?*

7. The author quotes 1 Peter 5:8 (NLT): “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.” *What can you do to stand between this ravenous predator and your children or other loved ones?*

Prayer:

Father, give us discerning minds about our relationships. Help us to love and accept those You have put into our lives, while excluding those You tell us don't belong in our lives. May we learn to cooperate with our loved ones so that they help us in fulfilling our purpose and we help them in fulfilling theirs. Of all our relationships, though, Lord, we declare that our relationship with You will always be number one! In Jesus's name, amen.

To remember:

- Covenant relationships were meant for you to work together against whatever enemy is attacking that covenant.
- Conflict is the gap between expectations and reality.
- Your inability to discern the role of certain relationships in your life will create enemies.

For next time:

Please read part 7, “How to Fight to Win,” before getting back together with your group for session 6. In your mind, review what you’ve been doing to defeat your enemy.

SESSION 6

Based on part 7, “How to Fight to Win” (page 151)

Review:

Part 7 gives tips to help you win your battle. No one who’s facing an enemy should forget this advice:

- Hold on to a quiet, humble faith in what God has told you.
- Trust in God’s grace and mercy. His mercy means you won’t have to face more than you can handle. His grace means He will give you everything you need to be victorious.
- Pick your battles, so that you don’t waste your effort in fruitless fighting.
- Never give up.
- Use your enemy as a stepstool to rise to the next level.
- Seek out wise advice from mentors.
- Don’t bother answering your critics.
- Stay in a godly environment so that you fight your enemy on a battlefield of your choosing, not his.
- Be willing to leave where you’re at to arrive where God wants to take you.

- Realize that it's ultimately the Lord's battle, not yours.
- Focus on how big God is, not how big your enemy is.
- Follow the lead of the Holy Spirit inside you.

Key scripture:

“Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's” (2 Chronicles 20:15).

Questions:

1. Ron says that Peter did not walk on water; he walked on Jesus's word calling him onto the waves. And likewise we can be a part of miraculous events if we have unwavering trust in God's word to us. *How is your faith in God holding up under the attacks of your enemy? What could strengthen your faith?*
2. God's grace—one of the nukes in your arsenal—ensures that He will give you what you need to be victorious. *What should you be asking God for in prayer to help you in your battle?*
3. Ron suggests two questions to ask when you are trying to decide whether to get into a battle or not. (1) Are there spoils to be gained through victory in this battle? (2) Does this situation threaten my destiny? *If you can see a potential battle in the offing in your life, answer those two questions about it.*

4. Perhaps the simplest advice Ron gives in the whole book is to keep standing, persevere, and outlast your enemy. *Right now, are you more determined to keep going or more tempted to raise the white flag? What can give you the resolve to hold out until the end?*

5. Ron says, “All of us can ultimately learn life’s lessons only two ways: we can learn through an experience or learn through what someone who’s wise tells us.... Learning from someone else’s experiences, both good and bad, is so much easier than taking the knocks yourself.” *What mentors or other advisors do you have available to give you wise guidance?*

6. In a military war, the army that gets to choose the battlefield has a distinct advantage. *What worldly environments would the Enemy like to get you into? What can you do to remain in a godly environment that puts the Enemy at a disadvantage?*

7. Abraham had to *leave* his homeland before he could *receive* the blessing God offered. *What comfort zone is God calling you to leave?*

8. *What does the phrase “the battle is the Lord’s” mean to you in your particular struggle?*

Prayer:

God, we're coming to understand that, while the stakes in our battles are high, Your place over our circumstances is higher still.

Give us what we need in the battle—resources from within ourselves, from allies, and especially from You. We acknowledge that the battle is Yours, and we call on You to win it! Amen.

To remember:

- It's your enemy's role to create circumstances around you that challenge the faith inside you.
- An enemy will let you swing away all day, and you accomplish nothing except wearing yourself out.
- To get out from underneath the threat of an enemy, change what you're magnifying.
- The Holy Spirit living inside you will guide you into the things God has for you in your life.

For next time:

Please read part 8, "The Spoils of Victory," before getting back together with your group for session 7.

SESSION 7

Based on part 8, "The Spoils of Victory" (page 183)

Review:

Ron Carpenter's battle with his enemy finally came to an end when the lawsuit against him was settled. His church reaped the spoils of victory because, instead of being destroyed, it went on to a new season of effectiveness. And his family reaped the spoils too as they grew closer together than ever.

If we will handle the conclusion of our battle wisely, we also can make the most of the victory God gives.

A hard-fought battle inevitably leaves scars. But God gives healing. If you've experienced a victory, don't let your guard down, because another attack might be following behind. If you need some healing, get away—because changing your environment can often help in recovery. If you realize that you made some mistakes along the way, trust God to make adjustments and guide you into His plan anyway. If you don't know what to do next, give yourself time to regroup and hear from God. And in the meantime, hang out with other Christians who will let you be honest about what you're going through and help you recover.

Key scripture:

“In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).

Questions:

1. *Have you experienced any degree of victory over your enemy yet? If so, describe it. What are the benefits you're seeing for you and your family? for your God-given purpose in life?*

2. After achieving a stunning victory over the pagan priests at Mount Carmel, the prophet Elijah emotionally folded up when a wicked queen threatened him. Ron says that Elijah's example “points to the fact that the aftermath of a victory is a vulnerable time.” *How might you be vulnerable to a follow-up attack right now?*

3. *What wounds and scars has your struggle left in your life?*

4. The author advises a change of location to find needed healing. “You may not be able to go away by leaving town,” he says, “but in some way, for at least a short period of time—even a few hours—you need to find a way to change your environment so the Holy Spirit can help you see reality and adjust your perspective. And bring needed rest and healing.” *How could you put yourself in a different place where you might be more likely to receive healing?*

5. Wise commanders debrief their sides’ performance after a battle. *As you review your decisions during your battle, what mistakes do you see that you made?* The author says that, just as a GPS device in a car can recalculate a route after a wrong turn, so God can get us back on course even if we think we have made some disastrous miscalculations. *How do you need God to reset your course in life?*

6. Even though winning a victory over your enemy is a terrific thing, you still might feel some emptiness or aimlessness. *What words would you use to describe your emotional state right now? How can you give yourself a chance to regroup and let your emotional health and energy bounce back?*

7. Jesus said to the man with a withered hand, “Stretch out your hand”—referring to his unhealthy hand, not his healthy one. Likewise, churches and other Christian groups should be places where people can appropriately reveal their wounds and find healing. *What have you appreciated most about how this small group has helped you during your battle with an enemy? What other individuals or groups can you go to for continuing acceptance and encouragement?*

Prayer:

Father, we thank You for the success You have brought and are going to bring. Don't let us allow the spoils of victory to slip through our fingers by responding to our victory in the wrong way. Help us to cement the advantages You bring. Help us to heal, to learn, and to move on to what You have for us next. We know You are not done with us yet. And we know the Enemy is not done with us yet either. Take us from victory to victory and from Christlikeness to greater Christlikeness...and in the end to the ultimate victory in which all Your sons and daughters will share by Your grace. In Jesus's name, amen.

To remember:

- Sometimes a Goliath has to get in your face to bring about needed changes.
- Just because your life is transitioning doesn't mean it's ending.
- Jesus created an atmosphere where weaknesses could be healed.