

# The Ghost and the Darkness

## Week 1 (October 22-28): Lesson Guide

**Introduce guests/share life.** *How has this week been going? Good? Bad? Ugly? Things to celebrate?*

**Open in prayer.** *Include any prayer needs that came up while you were sharing life together.*

**Recall the guidelines together.** *Ask: "What is the purpose of the guidelines?" Answer: To be relational!*

**Hook Question:** Read Ephesians 6:12-13. What is your understanding of spiritual warfare?

**Ask someone from your team to read or tell the following background for the story:**

Understanding spiritual warfare begins by embracing the reality that there is a physical realm and a spiritual realm – and that the spiritual realm is just as real and active as the physical one. There is a being called Satan, and he commands a vast host of demons. They hate God, and their goal is to kill, steal, and destroy. They want to cause you harm, steal your faith, manipulate you, and use you as a tool for evil. Satan is a powerful being, and our only hope to win against him is to be in Christ and fight for our faith. Fighting for your faith is engaging in spiritual warfare.

God understands the weakness of humanity in the fight against Satan and his schemes. He understands because Jesus was fully God, but also fully man – tempted in every way that we are, yet without sin. In today's story, Jesus is about to begin His public ministry on the earth. From a young age, Jesus had studied the Word of God, discussed it with others, and memorized it. In order to accomplish His mission and fulfill the will of His Father, Jesus was led out into the wilderness where He would fast for 40 days. No food. No water. No shelter. No protection. His courage to step foot in the wilderness was in and of itself a huge step of faith and a declaration in His trust in His Father. It was the will of God that Jesus would drink the full cup of humanity, and that included suffering and temptation. Towards the end of His time in the wilderness, Jesus was visited by the devil. This is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from Matthew 4:1-11:** Change up the storyteller often!

**Rebuild the story:** Group members retell the story based on what they remember.

**Read the story in Matthew 4:1-11:** Ask the group to read these verses.

**Discuss these questions:**

Head  
Questions:  
Quicker  
tempo.

- What stands out to you in this story? Why?
- How did Satan go about tempting Jesus? What was his strategy?
- How did Jesus fight for His faith? What was the result?

- How is your faith being challenged right now?
- How do you need to fight for your faith?

- Practice sharing with others. Ask someone to retell this week's story one last time.

Heart Questions:  
Slow down & wait!

Action

**Close in Prayer**

**Recruit a Storyteller for Next Week**