

# The Ghost and the DARKNESS

## Week 3 (November 5-11): 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!*

**Retell last week's story:** The Demonic Delivered (Luke 8:26-39).

**Hook Question:** Satan is the father of lies. What lies about yourself or God do you battle most?

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

Satan is the father of ALL lies (John 8:44). Any truth claim that opposes God's Truth is demonic in nature.

Paul recognized this reality when he said, "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ" (2 Cor. 10:3-5). Typically, when we think of demonic thoughts, we think of really dark stuff; but Satan disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). Satan keeps us in bondage by making us think we don't have any demonic ideas in us. However, any idea or thought that opposes God's Truth is demonic, because it derives from the father of lies. Our spiritual battle is recognizing, by faith, the Truth of God and the lies of the enemy – and believing and acting on the Truth.

Today's story takes place during the middle of Jesus's ministry. The twelve disciples had already seen Jesus do many miracles, including casting out unclean spirits. Additionally, Jesus had already given the disciples authority over unclean spirits and the power to cast them out (Matt. 10:1). Suddenly, in Matthew 16, Jesus decided to lead his disciples north, out of the area of the Jews, and into a pagan country called Caesarea Philippi. Here, Jesus and His disciples could escape the constant bombardment created by the fame and notoriety of Jesus among the Jews. During this focused time with His disciples, Jesus asked an important question: "Who do people say that I am?" This is where our story begins...

**Tell the story from Matthew 16:13-25:** Change up the storyteller often!

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

**Read the story in Matthew 16:13-25:** Ask the group to read these verses.

### Discuss these questions:

Head  
Questions:  
Quicker  
tempo.

- What did you find interesting about the story?
- What does this story teach us about people?
- What does this story teach us about God?

Heart Questions:  
Slow down & wait!

- What demonic thought or idea have you been entertaining that you need to expose?

Action

- Ask someone to retell this week's story one last time.

**Close in Prayer**

**Recruit a Storyteller for Next Week**