

Spiritual Warfare For Kids

We have spent the past couple of weeks discussing the realities of spiritual warfare. We have been getting trained up and equipped to stand against the enemy in our everyday life. Saints' Hill Kids wanted to provide a resource for parents to use to talk about spiritual warfare with kids!

It is important to talk about spiritual warfare from a place of victory. God has already won. He had already defeated the enemy and we get to live victorious with Him. When we are explaining spiritual warfare to kids, it is important to acknowledge that the spiritual realm is just as much of a reality for them as it is for you. Satan is just as real as God is. Encourage them that the God that they follow is bigger than the enemy and we do not have to be afraid of the demonic.

Because we have the Holy Spirit we have the authority to tell the enemy to leave. We know this because Christ is seated in the heavenly realms and "is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else", and through God's grace we have *also* been raised from the dead, united with Christ in the heavenly realms, and therefore we share in that authority as co-heirs of Christ (Ephesians 1-2).

The temptation of Jesus (Luke 4:1-13) and the passage about the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20) are both great passages that provide examples and direction on how we ought to stand firm against the devil. This includes speaking Scripture *out loud*, like Christ did to the enemy and how Paul tells us to. We also follow Christ's example in speaking with authority and telling the demonic to leave. These are two passages that could be very important to read with your kid whether you suspect demonic influence or not, because they provide context for spiritual warfare and produce confidence in the believer of the authority we have by the Spirit.

If you are looking for more information regarding spiritual warfare, check out Alex Rettman's teachings on Spiritual Warfare on the Saints' Hill website.

What do we look for?

If you suspect that your child is being influenced by the demonic there are a couple things to look for:

- When you are in certain situations with your child, do you sense an oppressive presence (depressed, sad, self-hating)
- Does your child express hearing an accusing voice in their mind?
- Does your child not seem like themselves?
- Do you notice that your child is believing lies about themselves? Your child's identity can be a huge target for the demonic.
- Is your child seeing things in the corner of their room? Or have repeated nightmares?

Not all nightmares are demonic, but the enemy will use the subconscious fears of children to get them into agreement.

How do we deal with the demonic and our children?

*If your child **has** accepted Jesus as Lord of their life:*

According to Ephesians 1-2 we have authority over the demonic because we are seated with Christ far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else. Because your child has accepted Jesus as Lord of their life they have the authority to tell the enemy to leave.

There are a couple ways you can partner with your child to do this:

- *Pray.* Have your child recite one of the prayers that are included in the resources section of this handout. It is important to note that the specific wording of a prayer is unimportant. The authority that we have comes from the truth that we speak, not the way that we say it. By praying, we rebel against the status quo by daring to depend on God and believing that praying to Him changes things.
- *Use Scripture.* Have your child memorize and/or recite scripture. The spoken word of God is a powerful tool to use when we are dealing with the demonic. Everytime your child is experiencing the demonic, you can encourage them to tell the demon to go away and recite the piece of scripture that they memorized.

*If your child **has not** accepted Jesus as Lord of their life:*

Because your child has not yet accepted Jesus as Lord of their life, they do not have the authority by the Spirit to tell the enemy to leave. There are then two options: first, if your child is cognitive enough you can ask them to accept Jesus as Lord, converting them so that they have authority; second, parents can take spiritual authority over their child. If the first option works, read the section above.

For parents taking spiritual authority over their child, there are a couple ways for you to do this:

- *Pray over your child.* Read one of the prayers listed with the resources section of this handout. It is important to note that the specific wording of a prayer is unimportant. The authority that we have comes from the truth that we speak, not the way that we say it. By praying, we rebel against the status quo by daring to depend on God and believing that praying to Him changes things.
- *Speak truth over your child.* The spoken word of God is a powerful tool to use when we are dealing with the demonic. Jesus Himself did this when He faced temptation (Luke 4:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11).
- *Tell the enemy to leave.* You have authority over the demonic (Eph. 1-2) and you can use this authority over the demonic influencing your child. In the gospels, we see Jesus using His authority to cast out demons from others, and we have this same authority.

A couple of things to remember

- We don't get into screaming matches with the enemy.
 - Our God has already won, we do not need to raise our voice at the devil. You and/or your child have the authority to lower your voice and in a firm tone tell the enemy to "shut up and get out"
- Don't try to find out anything about the demon.
 - It's not important.
- After you have told the enemy to leave, do "Jesusy stuff"
 - As a family, spend some time with the Lord.
 - Pray
 - Worship
 - Thanksgiving

Resources

Prayers to Pray:

1. Demon, in the name and authority of Jesus, I command you to get away from me. Lord Jesus, I ask that you would send these demons away from me.
2. Jesus, thank you that you are always with me and that the enemy cannot touch me.
3. God, you are my protector and my comforter. Thank you that because of Jesus I get to walk in complete freedom.

Verses to Recite:

Matthew 28:20 surely I am with you always

Psalm 46:1-2 God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear

Psalm 46:7 the Lord almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me

Psalm 18:2 The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand

Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation--whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life--of whom shall I be afraid?

Hebrews 13:6 The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Romans 8:31 If God is for us, who can be against us?

1 John 4:4 Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world

Genesis 15:1 do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward