



## **“Deliver Us From Evil”**

April 2nd, 2023

CG Discussion Guide

### **CATCHING UP ON LIFE**

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As A church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)  
*Suggested time: 10 minutes*

- What can you thank God for this week?
- When were you most aware of Jesus' presence this week?
- When were you least aware of Jesus' presence this week?

### **REVIEW THE MISSION**

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go because Jesus changes everything. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20) · *Suggested time: 10-15 minutes*

- People:
  - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
  - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, Serve CLT partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Charlotte)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?
- Plan:
  - Are there any hangouts already planned, or an extra hangout we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?
- Pray:
  - Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

## SCRIPTURE AND SERMON DISCUSSION

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a Community Group throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25) · *Suggested Time: 30-40 minutes*

### Read Matthew 6:7-15 and Ephesians 6:10-20.

1. What is the Holy Spirit showing you in these passages about God or about yourself?

### Sermon Recap

*This world is both physical and spiritual, with a real enemy, namely Satan, who works in opposition to God's Kingdom. It is hard for us to remember this when our culture has no category for the supernatural, we tend to live complacent lives, and we focus on smaller evils instead of seeing Satan for who he is. When we pray to the Father to deliver us from evil, we are asking for the Father to equip us by His Spirit to fight against temptations, accusations, and the means Satan uses to fight against God's Kingdom. Every battle we face can be an opportunity for us to commune with the Father, thanks to Jesus.*

2. What did the Holy Spirit teach you through the sermon? What do you feel encouraged or challenged to do after hearing the Word preached?

### Read:

*"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." - James 1:22*

*The goal of our CG discussion times is not to simply recap what we "liked" about the sermon, although that is helpful, the goal is to work into our lives, to talk about how we might apply God's Word, and to make plans for the week to come as a community seeking to follow Jesus together. In light of that.*

3. How do you tend to view evil in your life or in the world? How does scripture shape this view in light of the sermon?

*Recap the ways the spiritual forces of evil scheme against us as the people of God:*

- **Deceiver** – Spiritual forces of evil will lie to us and get us to question God's goodness and kindness. That part of us that would say something like "I know God is good, but..." that is a scheme of our enemy.
- **Accuser** – Spiritual forces of evil will stand over those of us who are declared righteous, holy, and clean and forgiven because of faith in Jesus and say "nope, not good enough." That part of us that believes "I've trusted in Jesus but there's still stuff I have to do to earn God's love" – that is a scheme of our enemy.
- **Tempter** – Spiritual forces of evil will press on our sin nature, the already inside of us wicked desires we have, and entice us to follow them, to chase after and look for life apart from God.
- **Dis-Unifier** – Spiritual forces of evil will push us to not forgive, or question every motive or action of people in our community group, or pull us away from community, or towards gossip and division.
- **Blinder** – Spiritual forces of evil will blind the minds of unbelievers such that they will not worship or turn to God.
- **Sickness** – Spiritual forces of evil sometimes work through physical ailment or pain.

4. How have you seen these schemes of the spiritual forces of evil show up in the past month?
5. How do you as an individual, or as a community group, need to pray for deliverance from evil right now?

*After the discussion, check-in with your group about their time in prayer through the Lent Guide. For those that are doing it, ask them to share how it is going, and encourage others to participate with their own copy or the digital version at <https://www.citizenscharlotte.com/lent-2023> throughout Lent.*

## **CARE AND PRAYER**

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

*Suggested Time: 30-45 minutes.*