

The Devil in Your Marriage

2026-06-29 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Ephesians 6:12

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Closing the Marriage Conversations series, Pastor Matt reframed every argument with one verse. Ephesians 6:12 says our struggle is not against flesh and blood. The fight in a marriage is a skirmish inside a war that has already been decided. He used two Old Testament scenes to prove that something is always happening behind what you can see: Elisha's servant, whose eyes were opened to an army of fire, and Daniel, whose answer was delayed twenty-one days by a battle he knew nothing about. Two practical claims follow. The devil is present in your argument, and so is Christ. And prayer and Scripture, not ultimatums, are how a person actually fights.

To get started

- What disagreement have you had more than once, over something small enough to be funny now?

Looking back at the message

Every marriage in the room is at a different point. Keep the questions general enough that no one is exposed.

- 1 Pastor Matt said not to stress over the skirmish when Jesus has already won the war. How does that change the feel of an argument, if at all?
- 2 Pastor Matt said that in an argument, it is probably the devil at work in you before it is the devil in them. What did you make of him putting it that way around?
- 3 Pastor Matt asked people to picture Jesus standing in the room during their last argument, because he was there. What happened when you pictured it? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Ephesians 6:10-12 and 2 Kings 6:15-17 aloud so the group can compare them.

- 4 Read Ephesians 6:12. Who does Paul say the struggle is against, and, just as important, who is it not against?
- 5 In 2 Kings 6, the servant sees an enemy army, and Elisha prays for his eyes to be opened. What changes when they are, and what stays exactly the same?
- 6 In Daniel 10, the answer to Daniel's prayer was delayed twenty-one days, not withheld. What is the difference between delayed and denied?
- 7 Read Revelation 12:11. They triumphed by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. What kind of fighting is that describing?

Bringing it home

Naming an enemy can become a way of avoiding responsibility. Pastor Matt closed that door; keep it closed.

- 8 How do you tell the difference between recognizing a spiritual reality and using it as an excuse for how you behaved?
- 9 Pastor Matt contrasted prayer that only calms you down with prayer saturated in Scripture. Which one is your prayer life closer to?
- 10 Pastor Matt said ultimatums change a habit at best, and never a heart. What have you tried in a strained relationship that did not work?
- 11 What would pausing look like for you in the actual moment, not afterward?

The group together

Marriage talk can leave out the unmarried. Make sure it does not here.

- 12 Most of this applies well beyond marriage. Where else does it fit in your life?
- 13 Pastor Matt spoke about people who pray for others in the middle of the night. What would it mean for this group to pray for each other that specifically?
- 14 Is there a relationship you would let this group pray about without anyone asking you for details? OPTIONAL

BEFORE YOU FINISH

Next time a small conflict starts, what is one thing you could do that treats it as a skirmish rather than the war?

You might pray about

- For marriages in this group that are tired rather than broken
- For eyes opened to what is happening behind what we can see
- For prayer that changes us before it changes anyone else
- For those carrying a conflict they have told no one about

