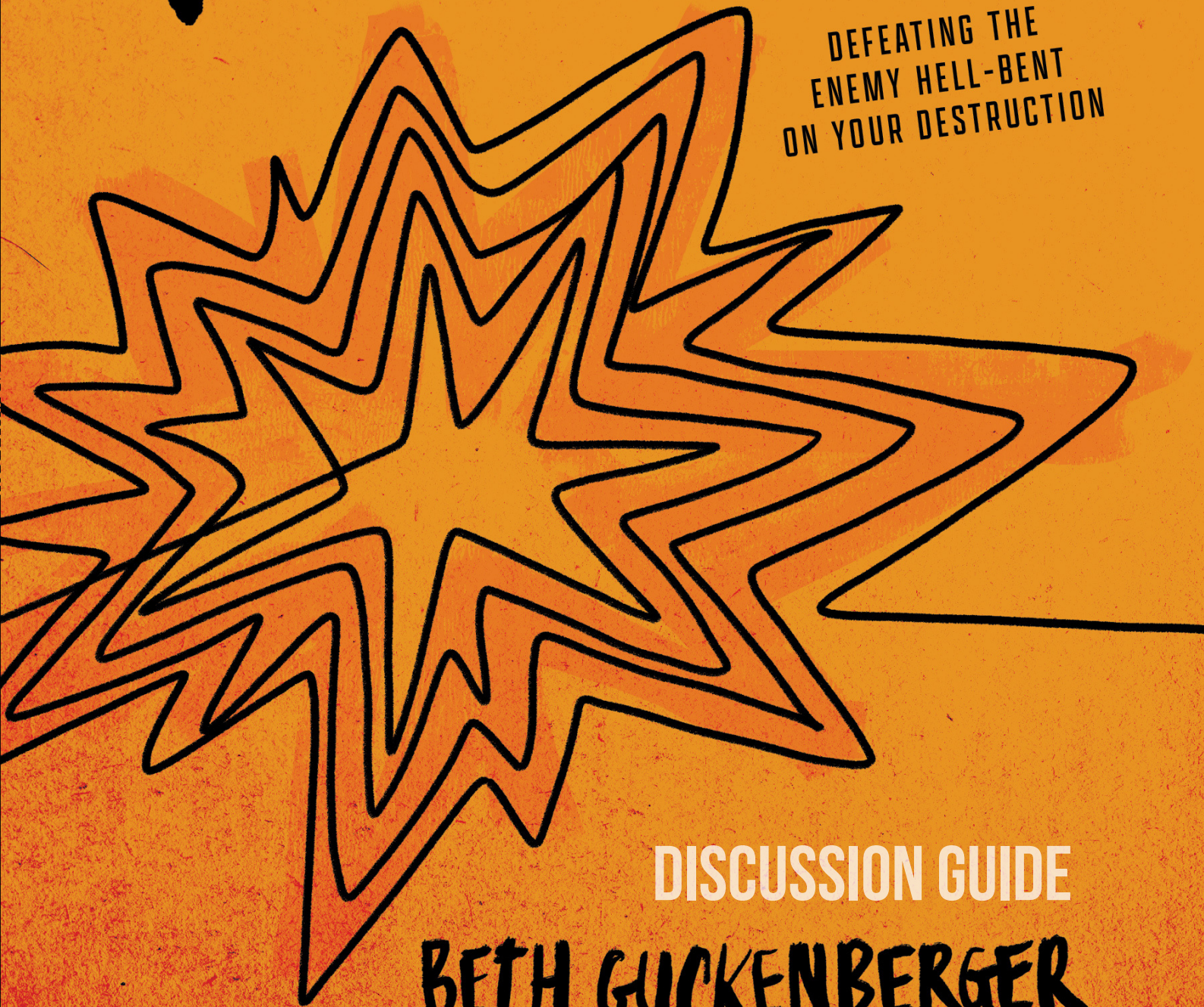


THROW THE FIRST PUNCH

DEFEATING THE
ENEMY HELL-BENT
ON YOUR DESTRUCTION



DISCUSSION GUIDE

BETH GUCKENBERGER

CHAPTER 1

HE USES THE SAME TRICKS OVER AND OVER.

discussion questions

1. What questions do you have about evil or enemy activity?
2. Are you more spiritually comfortable on defense or offense? Why?
3. What tricks has the Enemy used on you (over and over again)?

CHAPTER 2

HE CAN'T WIN. THE JOKE IS ON HIM.

discussion questions

1. Who fights alongside you?
2. Which of the three tools are you most comfortable with (prayer, Scripture, or praise)?
3. Have you seen deliverance in your life? Was it initiated through repentance or through prayer?

CHAPTER 3

GOD HAS THE REAL POWER.

discussion questions

1. Do we talk enough about Satan in the Church?
2. What do we know about him?
3. What does Telemachus's testimony teach us?
4. Have you been in darkness so thick you could feel it? What was your response?

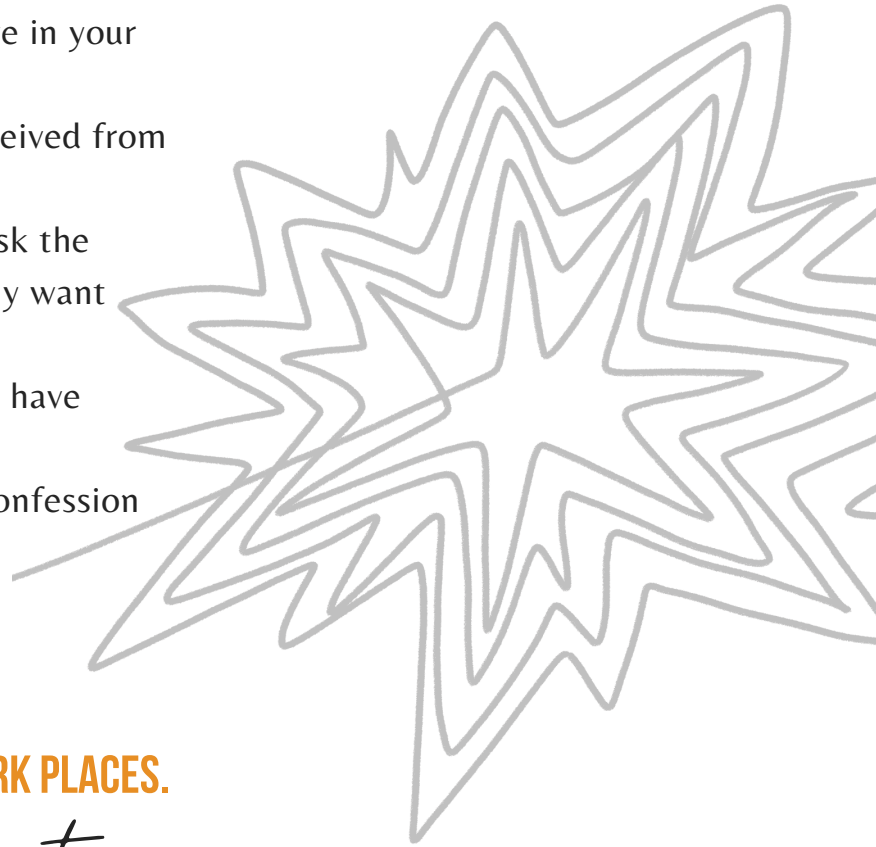


CHAPTER 4

WHEN IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE SURROUNDED, WE'RE SURROUNDED BY HIM.

discussion questions

1. What worship songs do you have in your heart?
2. What have you given to and received from those you love?
3. Where in your life should you ask the question, "What does the Enemy want here?"
4. What is an example of a lie you have believed?
5. What's your relationship with confession been like?



CHAPTER 5

GOD ISN'T AFRAID OF ENTERING DARK PLACES.

discussion questions

1. How comfortable are you with talking about the supernatural?
2. Where have you been afraid to go because of darkness?
3. In which dark place has God tabernacled with you?

CHAPTER 6

SATAN WANTS ME OBLIVIOUS. GOD WANTS ME VIGILANT.

discussion questions

1. Where are you more aware of the Enemy's schemes?
2. Where are you involved in compromise right now? What can you do about it?
3. How has the Enemy infiltrated your entertainment choices?

CHAPTER 7

SATAN WANTS ME PROUD. GOD GUIDES ME TO HUMILITY.

discussion questions

1. In what area of your life do you struggle with pride? What can you do about it?
2. When has God taught you a lesson about pride?
3. Where do you struggle not to count from a worldly perspective?

CHAPTER 8

SATAN WANTS ME ISOLATED. GOD MADE ME FOR COMMUNITY.

discussion questions

1. Who is on your front porch?
2. Where are you dangerously isolated? What can you do about it?
3. What sins are crouching at your door?

CHAPTER 9

SATAN WANTS ME SELFISH. GOD MADE ME TO SERVE.

discussion questions

1. When do you struggle most with being selfish? What can you do about it?
2. What rats are in your cellar?
3. What role have you seen confession play with selfishness?

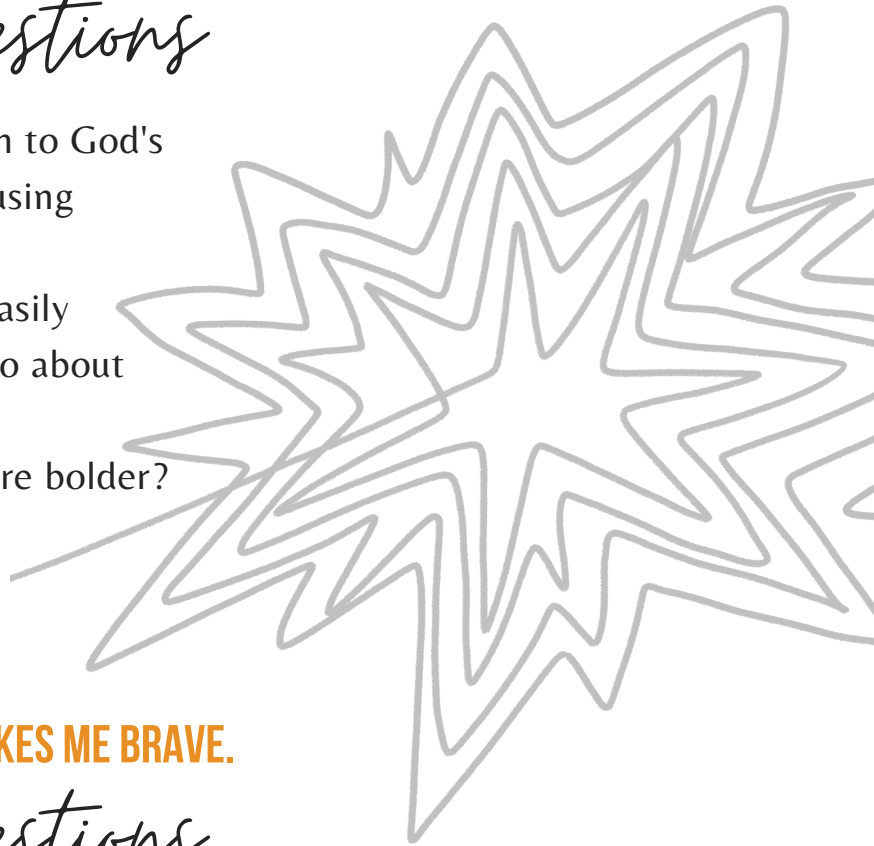


CHAPTER 10

SATAN WANTS ME DISCOURAGED. GOD EMBOLDENS ME.

discussion questions

1. When is a time you've held on to God's truth in the middle of a confusing season?
2. Where do you find yourself easily discouraged? What can you do about it?
3. What would you do if you were bolder?



CHAPTER 11

SATAN WANTS ME AFRAID. GOD MAKES ME BRAVE.

discussion questions

1. What privileges come with being one of God's kids?
2. When have you felt Him fill in your cracks?
3. What scares you? What can you do about it?

CHAPTER 12

SATAN WANTS ME TO FEEL LOST. GOD NEVER LOSES SIGHT OF ME.

discussion questions

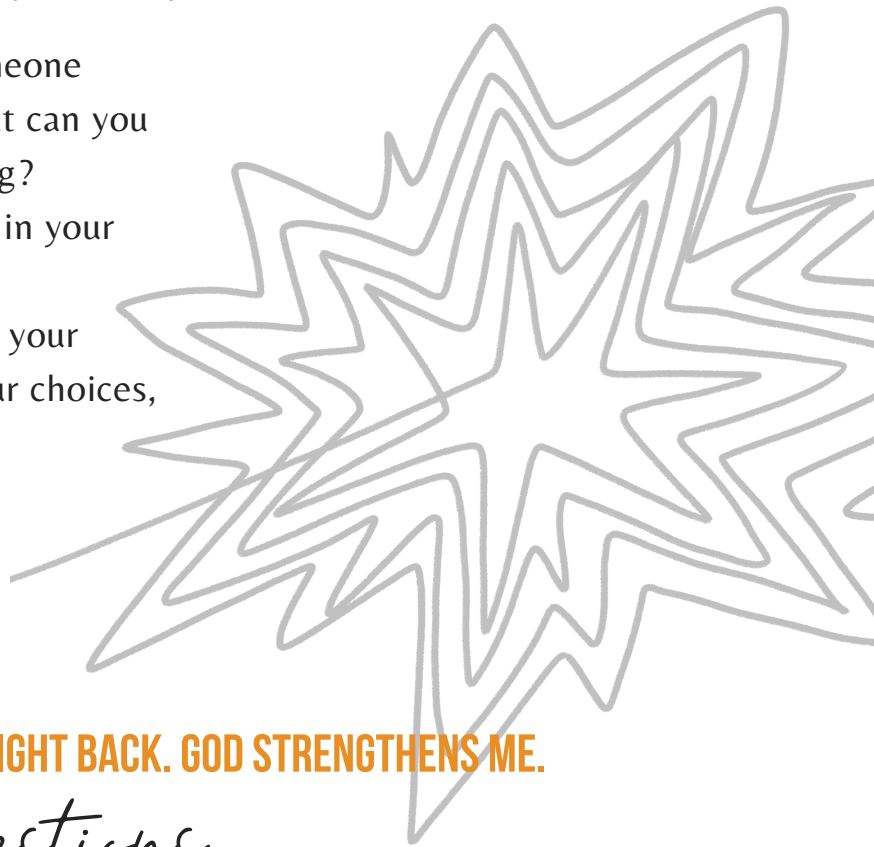
1. When was the last time you felt spiritually disoriented?
2. What can you do when you feel lost?
3. Who spent their resources to bring you into God's family?
4. Do you relate more with the prodigal son or the older brother?

CHAPTER 13

SATAN'S WANTS TO DIM MY LIGHT. GOD SAYS, "SHINE!"

discussion questions

1. Do you have a memory of someone telling you to be smaller? What can you do when you feel like shrinking?
2. What family stories get retold in your family?
3. How much do you think about your strengths and weaknesses, your choices, and how they impact future generations?



CHAPTER 14

SATAN WANTS ME TOO WEARY TO FIGHT BACK. GOD STRENGTHENS ME.

discussion questions

1. How can you tell you are feeling spiritually weary? What can you do about it?
2. What would a list of brutally honest statements from you look like?
3. What are you grieving?
4. What's the difference between available and busy?

CHAPTER 15

SATAN WANTS ME JUDGMENTAL AND UNAWARE OF MY OWN SIN. GOD GIVES FREEDOM.

discussion questions

1. Who or what do you most frequently judge?
2. Where do you have fallow ground? What can you do about it?
3. How much confession is in your daily spiritual rhythm?

CHAPTER 16

SATAN WANTS ME NUMB. GOD WAKES ME UP.

discussion questions

1. What is an example in your life when a small problem became a big problem?
2. Have you ever spiritually fallen asleep?
3. How can you tell when you are numb?
What can you do about it?

CHAPTER 17

SATAN WANTS ME ANXIOUS. GOD IS PEACE.

discussion questions

1. What kinds of things make you anxious? What can you do about it?
2. When was a time you felt in the desert? How did God speak to you there?
3. Does anxiety sneak up on you or hit you all at once?
4. What lies are easiest for you to believe?

CHAPTER 18

SATAN WANTS TO CONFUSE MY IDENTITY. GOD PROVIDES BELONGING.

discussion questions

1. Who do you know who reflects God's light instead of stealing it for himself or herself?
2. What parts of your life experience do you wear like an identity?
3. How easily are you discouraged? What can you do about it?



CHAPTER 19

SATAN WANTS ME DISTRACTED WITH PLEASURE. GOD IS MY DELIVERER.

discussion questions

1. Which pleasures of the flesh most tempt you? What do you do about them?
2. What strongholds or habitual patterns of thought have held you captive?
3. What gifts are tempting to love more than the Giver?



CHAPTER 20

SATAN WANTS ME TO FEEL SHAME. GOD REDEEMS ME.

discussion questions

1. Where do you see shame creeping into your life? What can you do about it?
2. What kinds of things do you replay in your mind?
3. How vulnerable are you with people who listen to you?

CHAPTER 21

**SATAN WANTS ME IGNORANT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER.
GOD WANTS TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF TO ME.**

discussion questions

1. What do you believe about prophetic thoughts and how God uses them?
2. When have you seen God respond to your chutzpah?
3. What has God invited you to participate in? Is He inviting you now?

CHAPTER 22

SATAN WANTS TO MESS WITH MY BODY. GOD INTERVENES.

discussion questions

1. How has God grown your spiritual frame?
2. How have you seen the Enemy mess with the body?
3. When can you ask God to intervene and heal?



CHAPTER 23

SATAN WANTS ME SELF-ABSORBED. GOD SAYS, "OTHERS FIRST."

discussion questions

1. Who do I want to be at the end of my life?
2. Who cheers you on and points out when you are being self-absorbed?
3. What have you seen divide God's family?
4. How have you seen service to others form community?

CHAPTER 24

SATAN WANTS ME TO BUILD MY OWN KINGDOM. GOD IS THE CHIEF ARCHITECT.

discussion questions

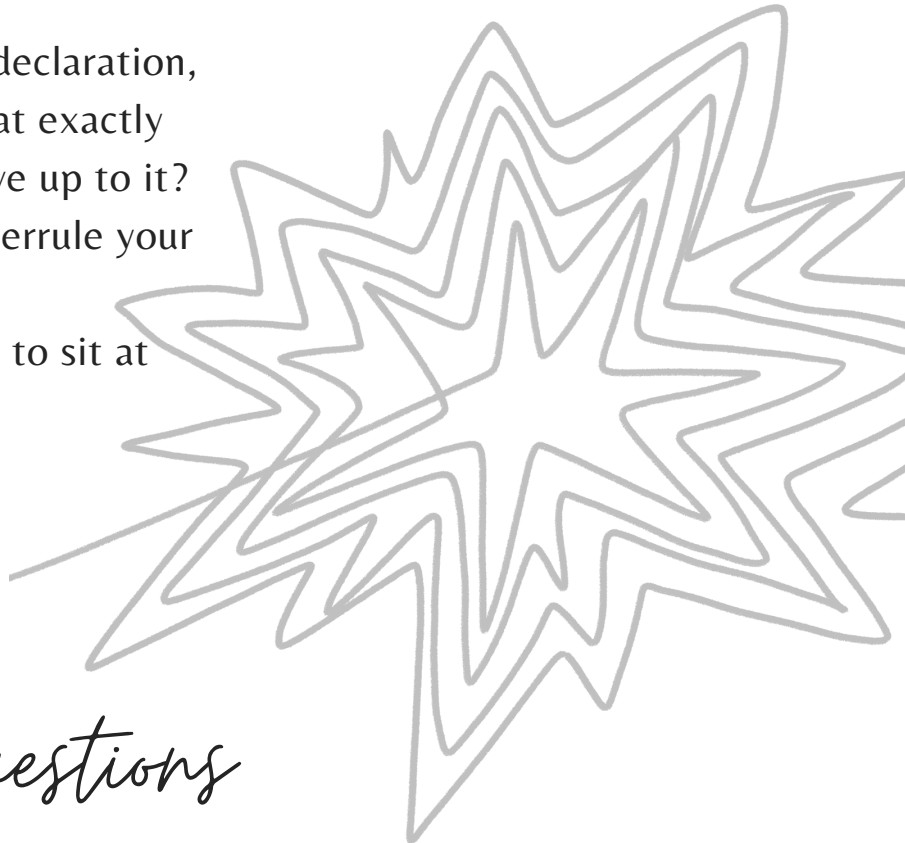
1. What are you known for?
2. What stone can you throw?
3. When have you settled on giving baseline? What can you do about it now?

CHAPTER 25

GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER SATAN.

discussion questions

1. If I was going to make a declaration, like Henrietta Mears, what exactly would I say and could I live up to it?
2. When do your feelings overrule your thinking?
3. How has the Enemy tried to sit at your table?



CHAPTER 26

HOPE IS A ROPE.

discussion questions

1. Who told you the gospel, and how was that work opposed?
2. What are you holding on to right now with hope?
3. What battle are you facing now, and what are the spiritual implications? What can you do now?