

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Leader's Guide

GOD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM

LESSON 3: GOD'S BATTLE PLAN

INTRODUCTION

This lesson is part of a Disciple Essentials module entitled God and the Spiritual Realm. This series of lessons examines the reality of the spiritual world – one in which there are forces of both good and evil. This module deals with the origin of evil, the end punishment of Satan, the reality of spiritual warfare and strongholds in our everyday lives, the armor that God has provided us with, God's great battle plan against Satan, God's ultimate control over all things and the supernatural ways in which God occasionally communicates with his people through dreams, visions and angelic beings.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

The intended audience for these lessons is new Christians or those who would like a refresher on the basics of Christian salvation. Those who are preparing for evangelism and discipleship may benefit from discussion of these ideas. These lessons assume the participant has made a decision to follow Jesus and wants to explore Christianity further.

The Leader's Guide is intended to help the leader prepare for the lessons and can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials found on www.discipleshipessentials.org.

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GOD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM

LESSON 3: GOD'S BATTLE PLAN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to learn how we can prepare for the spiritual battle that is going on all around us by putting on the armour of God.

LEADER'S NOTE

This lesson focuses on where we fight the battle against the forces of evil on a daily basis. This essentially is in the heart of each and every person. Will we choose to follow God or turn our own way? We belong to Satan if we choose to follow the ways of this world, and will only come to ruin and destruction. This lesson goes through the armour of God in detail and talks about God's strategy to win this war through His people. You may choose to provide an extended time of prayer after these lessons so that participants can pray for particular spiritual concerns.

INTRODUCTION

Select two or three of the following questions.

- ❖ How do you see evil at work in the world around you?
- ❖ Why is prayer an important weapon in battling the evil in your life and in the world around you?
- ❖ Have you experienced someone praying to remove the presence of a demon, or a demonic force? Share with the group about that experience.
- ❖ God does not leave us alone in the battle against evil – what tools does God give us? How has He equipped us for the fight?

STUDY

TEACH

- ❖ **Satan Is Defeated But Not Dead:** Satan is defeated, but not dead. If you are a believer you have already chosen the side on which to fight – the Lord's. Satan has already set himself firmly against you. Many Christians become casualties of the enemy not because they lack access to God's strength, but because they rely on zeal without wisdom ([Ecclesiastes 9:14-18](#)). We need



to be equipped and willing to fight. It requires practice and training. It is an active stance against evil.

- ❖ **Satan's Domain:** This world is the domain of Satan, even though God has imposed boundaries over his rule. He does not have complete control.
 - [2 Peter 2:4](#)
 - [Matthew 8:28-32](#)
 - [Ephesians 6:12](#)

- ❖ **God's Battle Strategy :** The war against the enemy begins with unconditional submission to God.
 - **We must live a virtuous life.**
 - [1 John 4:4](#)
 - [Matthew 5:8,48](#)
 - [Philippians 2:12-16](#)
 - [Matthew 5:25-26](#)
 - [Colossians 3:1-9](#)
 - [1 Peter 1:13-16](#)

 - **We must fight according to God's way.**
 - [Ephesians 6:10-18](#)
 - [2 Corinthians 10:3-6](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 10:20](#)
 - [Romans 13:1](#)
 - [Daniel 10:20](#)
 - [John 12:31](#)
 - [Acts 26:18](#)

 - **We must put on the armour of God.**
 - [Ephesians 6:13-18](#)

- ❖ **Standing In The Armour Of God:** God describes our equipment to fight the battle as the armour of God. We will take a brief look at each piece and how one can use it in the battle.
 - **[Ephesians 6:10-17](#)** The full armour of God is given to us to take a stand against Satan. Notice how many times we are told in this verse to simply *stand*. That is how we wage war against evil. We are immovable in the truth of God as we stand against evil. Ultimately it is our faith in the Word of God that enables us to stand.
 - **The belt of truth** keeps our other armour in place and protects vital organs. The truth of God holds us together and protects us against the deception of Satan. Our armour would not work if it was based on falsehood. We must have beliefs that are true.
 - **The breastplate of righteousness** is knowledge that guards our heart. Our righteousness comes from Jesus Christ and not ourselves.
 - **The Gospel of peace on our feet** prepares us to share the Gospel which brings peace.
 - **The shield of faith guards us** against doubt, which is a tool of the enemy. Our faith in God's faithfulness, provision and protection is our shield.



- **The helmet of salvation protects** our head, or our thoughts. We must have the mind of Christ, and remember that we have assurance of our salvation.
 - **The sword of the spirit** is the only offensive weapon given to us, the rest are all defensive. The sword of the spirit is the Word of God. It is our source of truth and can combat the lies of Satan.
- Romans 13:12 *Put on the armour of light against the darkness.*
 - Luke 21:36 *Be on the watch, pray, and be ready to stand.*
 - 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 *Stand firm, stand up under temptation.*
 - James 4:7 *Resist the Devil, stand against him and he will flee from you.*
 - Exodus 14:14 *God will fight for us. We must be still and demonstrate our trust in Him.*
- ❖ **Our Strategies:** In order to be successful, spiritual warfare must be waged according to the Scriptures. The primary strategies God has designed to defeat the enemy are the sacrifice of His Son and the witness of believers (Revelation 12:11). In this battle, God involves committed believers in the ministries of prayer and evangelism.
- ❖ **Prayer:** We must pray often to remain close to God. When we pray, the following can be accomplished through our Lord Jesus Christ:
- We put on the full armour of God (Ephesians 6:10).
 - Enemy strongholds are demolished (Luke 11:20-22 Romans 16:19-20).
 - Captives are set free and demons are cast out (Mark 6:12-13).
 - We live in God's light, not giving Satan any opportunity to oppress us (Ephesians 4:27, 5:8-11).
 - We yield to Christ's total control and are renewed in the attitude of the mind (Ephesians 4:23; Ephesians 5:18, 1 Corinthians 2:16)
- ❖ **Evangelism:** Evangelism brings the message of salvation through Jesus Christ to lost people. To be a part of the battle means to actively win souls for God. This defeats Satan, person by person, and glorifies God which is our purpose on this earth.
- The triple call for evangelism:
 - The call from heaven – Isaiah 6:8-9; Matthew 28:19-20.
 - The call from hell – Luke 16:23-30.
 - The call from all the earth – Acts 16:9-10; John 3:17.
 - Read Isaiah 61:1-3. What does this verse tell us our duty is to those who do not yet belong to Jesus Christ?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ How can you put on the armour of God daily?
- ❖ Why is God's battle instruction for us to simply 'stand'? What does this look like? What does this accomplish?
- ❖ Do you feel led to pray and intercede for someone who may be facing a spiritual attack? How could you pray for them?
- ❖ What spiritual attacks have you personally faced? How would you face them the next time after what you have learned in this study?

PRAYER

Close this session in prayer. Pray that God would help each participant to stand firm so they won't waver in their faith and beliefs, and that they would daily put on the armour of God. Pray they would not fear the darkness, but join with one another in prayer for God's kingdom to come.