

# discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living  
Study 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.

The Student's Guide is intended for an individual to look deeper into a specific lesson on their own. The lessons can be used in conjunction with other Discipleship Essentials materials, such as the video and audio productions found on [www.discipleshipessentials.org](http://www.discipleshipessentials.org).

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# GOD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM

## LESSON 3: GOD'S BATTLE PLAN

### WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

While we face evil every day, and the opposition of Satan we must understand that God is active in a war against evil. This lesson looks at this reality, and our part in God's plan of spiritual warfare.

### JUST SO YOU KNOW...

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. As you go through this lesson, consider specific spiritual concerns you have. If you have others you can pray with, consider setting aside time to pray for the spiritual battle you are engaged in.

## GETTING STARTED

1. Why is prayer an important weapon in battling the evil in your life and in the world around you?

2. 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

❖ **SATAN’S 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 God’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.

- What do the following verses tell you about Satan’s power and rule, under which we were before we came to Christ?

Ephesians 2:1-10	
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❖ **GOD’S BATTLE PLAN:** In this war, it will be of no benefit to have each soldier fight his or her own way, all alone. We will have victory if we fight God’s way, alongside one another. What do the following verses tell us about the battle we are in? Who is it we fight? How should we fight them?

2 Corinthians 10:3-6	
Ephesians 6:12	
Romans 13:1	
1 John 5:4-5	
1 Peter 5:8	
Isaiah 54:17	



- The first thing we must do in order to fight God’s way is to ensure **we live a virtuous life**. We must place ourselves under the control of God and that means resisting evil in our life and pursuing virtue.
  - The second thing we must do in order to fight God’s way is to **stand against God’s enemies**. We identify God’s enemies as those who promote evil, lawlessness and submission to Satan rather than God. We must stand against them and use truth to respond to the lies.
  - The third thing we must do is to **put on the armour of God**. This is the set of protective blessings God gives us, and these allow us to be kept free of the attacks of evil. It requires mindful awareness of God’s truth, the righteousness and salvation He has given us, and reminding ourselves of the Gospel.
- ❖ **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.
- Read [Ephesians 6:10-17](#). What are the pieces of the armour of God, and what are they used for? You may draw the pieces of the armor on the figure below if you wish.





- 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.
  - **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.
  
- Look up the following verses that relate to this spiritual armour – or protection – that God provides us with. What do you learn about our spiritual armour and how we should use it?

Romans 13:12	
Luke 21:36	
1 Corinthians 10:12-13	
James 4:7	
Exodus 14:14	

- Notice how often in the Bible we are told to stand! Standing is not being lazy or avoiding the fight. It is using the protection God has given us to resist any attack of the evil one. This is where the war is waged, in the hearts and souls of people. The more people who belong entirely to God, the less power Satan will have on the earth.



- ❖ **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.
  - Read Isaiah 61:1-3 What does this verse tell us our duty is to those who do not yet belong to Jesus Christ? What can you do this week to fulfill your duty?

## IN SUMMARY

- ❖ Satan's power is limited. God will completely win the victory someday – but for now, Satan has influence in the world.
- ❖ This world is the domain of Satan, even though God has imposed boundaries over his rule.
- ❖ God's battle strategy involves living a virtuous life, standing against the enemies of God, and putting on the armour of God
- ❖ The armour of God includes the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the Gospel of peace on our feet, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit.
- ❖ The armour of God is our defence against the enemy
- ❖ Prayer and Evangelism are the ways in which we attack our enemy



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How can you put on the armour of God daily?

2. Why is God's battle instruction for us to simply 'stand'? What does this look like? What does this accomplish?