

discipleship essentials

Essentials for Christian Living
Leader's Guide

GOD AND THE SPIRITUAL REALM

LESSON 4: GOD IS VICTORIOUS

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 4: GOD IS VICTORIOUS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this lesson is to see that God will be victorious over Satan and that He is in control of all things. Participants will look into what the Bible says about God's sovereignty.

LEADER'S NOTE

This lesson focuses on how the battle between God and Satan ends, God's sovereignty, and God's ultimate power over all things. It is not easy to explain how God can be fully in control and yet allow us to have free will and be responsible for our choices. This is addressed in Scripture even though it is hard to fully understand. God will give us courage as we face evil, pray, and share the Gospel. We should urgently see the need to win souls for Jesus Christ and pray that God's will be done on earth. Understanding that this battle will be won, and that we are on the side of victory should be of tremendous comfort to us.

INTRODUCTION

Select two or three of the following questions.

- ❖ What are you looking forward to most when Jesus Christ returns?
- ❖ What is your understanding of what will happen at the end of time?
- ❖ How is our continued transformation to becoming more like Christ part of the battle against evil?
- ❖ How much of what happens in the world is under God's control? How much has to do with our freedom to choose?

STUDY

TEACH

- ❖ **Daily Defeat of Satan:** There are three things we must do daily to keep Satan's power out of our lives.



- **Pray** – Put on the armour of God through prayer, asking for forgiveness of sins and for daily help from God, relying on Him, and maintaining our close relationship with Him.
 - **Aim for Christ-likeness** – God is sanctifying us through many means, and His desire is that we become conformed to the image of His Son. We do this through hearing and believing in God's Word, by not allowing sin in our life, and depending on the Holy Spirit to make us more like Christ.
 - **Continue to Live by the Spirit** – As we live each day, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit in us, we can stand by faith against the schemes of Satan, and be agents of rescue to this his grip. Vigilantly maintaining what God is doing in us is necessary. Have we learned a lesson? Don't forget it! Have we repented of a sin? Don't go back to it!
- ❖ **What Happens to Satan?** We all long to see justice done. When we think of the sorrow in the world around us, we might long for the day when evil is punished and God is victorious! God has revealed to us what will happen at the end of time. Yes, Satan prowls the earth today and has limited power over it, but it is only for a time!
- The war against Satan will cease with the return of Jesus. At that time Satan will be thrown into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:1-3)
 - At the end of the thousand years he is released for a short time and will gather nations in battle, surrounding God's people and Jerusalem, but will be defeated by fire from heaven. Revelation 20:7-9
 - Satan will receive God's just punishment. Note the graphic description in Revelation 20:10. Some interpret this "lake of fire" as eternal torture. Others claim that this means Satan will be totally destroyed forever. Either way, he will be punished and will no longer deceive God's people or oppose God.
 - Those who follow Satan will receive the same punishment. (Some interpret this as eternal punishment, and some that it will be a total destruction that lasts eternally.) Revelation 20:15, Matthew 25:41, 46
- ❖ **Eternity with Christ:** We will live with Jesus Christ forever if we belong to Him, and our war with Satan will come to an end.
- John 14:1-3
 - 2 Corinthians 4:14; 5:1,8
- We will reign with Christ as priests.
- Hebrews 7:17-21
 - Revelation 20:6, 5:10



➤ We will be rulers under the King of kings:

- Romans 8:17
- 2 Timothy 2:12

❖ **God's Sovereignty and Free Will:** We can trust that these things will come to pass, and God will have final victory over Satan because we know that God's word is true, and no power is greater than Him. God is absolutely sovereign over all He has made; Yet Scripture has much to say about our will to make choices. Reconciling these two ideas is difficult to do, and there isn't an easy answer. We must be satisfied that the Word of God tells us both are true and work out what that means in our lives. The word 'sovereign' means having supreme rank or power, being independent. If God were not sovereign, He could not act unless someone asked Him to, and He would be subject to the whims of His creation. If His creation had no choices, they could not be punished for their crimes. No matter how we answer the question we face difficulty.

➤ **God is in Control.** God answers to no one, and is in complete control of all things.

- 1 Chronicles 29:11-12
- Psalm 115:3
- Isaiah 45:7
- Ephesians 2:10
- Daniel 4:35
- Isaiah 14:24
- Ephesians 1:11

➤ **Our Free Will:** We make choices and are daily held accountable for them. Our choices are based on our personality, experiences, desires, impulses, and knowledge.

- Joshua 24:15
- Revelation 3:20
- Acts 2:21
- John 7:17
- James 4:1-8

➤ **Sovereignty and Freedom:** The Bible shows both God's control and our freedom working together. It is mysterious, but here are some verses illustrating how these two truths work together.

- Psalm 103:19
- Lamentations 3:37
- Genesis 50:19-21
- Proverbs 16:33
- Romans 8:28
- Proverbs 16:1



- ❖ **Prayer:** Even though God can control all things, He chooses to work through us, especially when we pray. Even though God could do everything without our prayers, He chooses to act in response to them to strengthen our relationship, to prove His faithfulness to us, and to teach us His nature and will. Do not neglect to pray for God's victories over sin each day even though we know that Jesus will ultimately defeat evil, death and Satan in the last days!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ❖ What are your resources as a child of God? What has God provided us with to fight this battle?
- ❖ How do you feel knowing what will happen to Satan at the end of time?
- ❖ What are you doing daily to decrease the power of Satan in your life?
- ❖ How does prayer accomplish God's purposes in this world?
- ❖ Knowing what God has in store for those who reject Him and His offer of salvation, what priority must we place on evangelism?
- ❖ What have you learned about spiritual warfare over the course of these lessons?

PRAYER

Close your session in prayer. Pray that God will protect the minds and hearts of believers as they wage daily war against Satan. Thank God that He is already victorious and is redeeming this world back to Himself.