

Everyday Battles Facilitator Guide

Suggested Format:

- Welcome/Fellowship
- Pray
- Brief Introduction to Series (*Feel free to use as much or as little of the Leader Guide & Discussion Guide info below*)
- Watch Video (Behind the Message video 17 min)
- Discussion Questions
- Prayer Requests and Praises

Leader Guide: As we go through this study, our hope and prayer is that we, as believers, we'll be reminded that there is a real spiritual battle for every Christian. But at the same time we'd be reminded of the Gospel truth that God is victorious, we are forever in Christ and we can stand in Christ power with the armor He has given us to overcome every spiritual battle.

This study, Everyday Battles, is designed for just that. We are going to study one of the most consequential passages on this topic. Our desire is to help equip each of you leaders to facilitate and lead your group in a way that draws people out in regards to their own life and their struggles as well as to help them think through and implement a plan on how to approach this battle that is not against flesh and blood.

Context: Remember that Paul spent significant time in the City of Ephesus. It was a grand city with much going on in the spiritual life of many. This entire city was dedicated to the great temple and Greek Goddess Artemis, the huntress. She was called the Great Mother; Goddess of giving birth and fertility. The largest temple ever dedicated to Artemis' name in history was built in Ephesus and known one of the Seven Wonders of Ancient World. Ephesus was not only a spiritual hot-bed but also a tremendous city of trade and commerce.

Acts 19 tells us how Paul went to the city of Ephesus and began preaching in the synagogue boldly reasoning with them and persuading them about the Kingdom of God. But the people were not receptive and began speaking against Paul and the message of the Gospel....he left the synagogue with his disciples and began teaching in the school of Tyrannus for two years (where philosophers and teachers gathered to debate). This was the beginning of the Church that Paul is now writing to from prison.

As we approach the text from Ephesians 6:10-20 lets keep in mind the context from which Paul is now writing. We remember from our study not long ago that Paul started Ephesians 1-3 speaking of the "TRUTHS" about who we are in Christ.

In Christ:

1. He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.(Eph.1:4)
2. He predestined us as His children through Jesus Christ. (Eph.1:5)
3. You have been “marked” by the Holy Spirit of promise as God’s own possession. (Eph.1:13,14)
4. We have redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of our sins. (Eph.1:7)
5. We have been made alive together with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly places. (Eph.2:6)
6. We have been saved by grace and not by works that we have done. (Eph.2:8,9)
7. In Christ, we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him (Eph.3:12)

In Ephesians 4, Paul began a section of imperatives/commands...based upon what we know about “who we are in Christ”. His primary thrust was what it looked like to live in a way that is “worthy of the calling which we have been called”. He called us to be imitators of God and to walk in love using our time wisely to glorify Him. Simply put, chpts 1-3 the truth of the Gospel, what God has done & who we are, then 3-6 practically what that looks like lived out. Paul then begins the emphasis of what context this all plays out: 1) The husband and wife relationship. (Humbly submitting to one another); 2) The parent child relationship of honoring your parents and how to train up children in the ways of the Lord; 3) Finally, Paul focuses on our work and how we are to view our responsibilities as to the Lord. This emphasis was applied to both the worker and the employer (slave & master).

It’s these relationships and ideas that Paul enters this emphasis of the spiritual battle all around us and the posture and strategy that we must take as we approach them. The struggle is not limited to these area but surely Paul had these in mind as he begins this final section of Ephesians.

Discussion Guide:

-Have someone read Ephesians 6:10-20.

Part I Ephesians 6:10-14 The New Testament is full of narratives about how Satan is alive and working against God’s children.

The Bible tells us to be on the alert because Satan prowls about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour. Jesus, when He taught his disciples to pray the Lord’s Prayer, many have translated “and bring us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”. The struggle is real and the consequences of not being prepared can be serious and long lasting. Our Salvation is secure, but Satan wants to trip us up and make us ineffective, but God has given us Armor to stand in Christ strength.

-PLAY VIDEO (17min)

Ohana Group Study Questions

(Everyday Battles Week 1)

“Never let the noise of the world around us drown out the truth of God’s Word in you”

QUICK REVIEW

1. In the message from this weekend what Scripture or particular point Ben made encouraged, challenged or stood out most to you? Why?
2. Below is a brief Scriptural survey of some of the "methods" the everyday battles that Satan uses to attack. How have you seen him use any of these tactics in your life?
 - **Accuses** - Job1:6-10, 11; Job 2:1-4
 - **Afflicts** - Job1:12-19; Job 2:6, 7; Luke 13:16;
 - **Conquers** Acts 10:38; Eph 6:16;
 - **Deceives** - Ge 3:1-5, 6,13; Jn 8:44; Ac 13:10;
 - **Hinders** - 1Th 2:18
 - **Murders** - John 8:44
 - **Perverts** - Acts 13:10; 2Th 2:9, 10
 - **Prompts** - 1Chr 21:1; John 13:2,27; Acts 5:3
 - **Schemes** - 2Cor 2:11; Eph 6:11; 1Ti 3:7
 - **Stalks** - 1Pe 5:8
 - **Steals** - Mt 13:19; Luke 8:12
 - **Tempts** - Mt 6:13; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-13
 - **Threatens** - Heb 2:14, 15

DIGGING DEEPER

Read the Text: Ephesians 6:10-14

3. In v.10 Paul says to “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might”.(Read Eph.1:18,19 & 3:16). How does that differ from being strong in our own strength?

• *A good illustration of this is David’s battle against Goliath....David declared “You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a [a]javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. ⁴⁶ This day the Lord will hand you over to me,”*

• *See Eph.1:18,19 (experience the same power that raised Christ from the dead.*

4. Paul commands us to “stand” three different times in four verses. There are times when one faces an enemy where you have to turn and run... like when you are outnumbered or are going to be overpowered. What does this command by Paul to “stand firm” tell you about our enemy?

• *Satan’s power is limited and can only do that which God allows him to do. See God’s conversation with Job (Job 1:6-12) “All that he has is in your power, only do not harm the man”*

• *(1 Jn 4:3,4)³ and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world. ⁴ You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; **because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.***

5. The first piece of the armor is the Belt of Truth. Ben mentioned in his message that “Spiritual warfare is not a struggle against power. It is a struggle to stay in the truth. The truth that Paul was referring to, is the truth of the Gospel in chapters 1-3 (How God saved us & our identity in Christ now), the truth of who we are “In Christ” and God is truth, Jesus is truth (I am the way truth & life). Therefore all that God has said is truth. So staying in truth is staying close to God, remembering the Gospel & knowing all that God has said, i.e. the Bible.

How do those truth personally help you stand against the attacks of Satan? How do you personally keep yourself in truth, weekly, daily, hourly? (*Be specific in what has helped you*).

- *We are chosen, predestined, redeemed through Christs blood, seated with Christ in the heavenly places, saved by grace and not by works etc. (Eph. 1-3)*

TAKING IT HOME

6. What are some of the lies that Satan wants us to believe during these challenging days? What is the “truth” we must continue to remind ourselves?
7. In our current culture there are many things trying to divide and distract Christians from the truth and mission God has called us to. How can you this week stay focused on truth? How can you help the church stay unified? How can you this week stay on mission by sharing the love of God, the Gospel with those around you (family, neighbors, co-workers, etc)?

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES