

Spiritual Warfare

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings

Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

1 John 5:18-20 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the One who was born of God keeps them safe, and the evil one cannot harm them. We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

1 Timothy 4:7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Romans 10:9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

In 1 Peter 5:8 the animal is identified by it's _____.

In these verses, Peter directly names our enemy as: _____. In Ephesians 6:12 Paul says more about our real enemies. Who are they?

Can we see "spiritual forces" with our eyes? _____ Why Not?

Satan and demons are real. They harass believers and try to trick them into mistrusting God. It is common for people to have "anxiety attacks." It is described as *anxiety* rather than *fear* because the victim does not know what they are afraid of.

According to 1 John 5:18, can these unseen enemies hurt us? _____.

Why can't these nasty spirit harm you? _____.

(1 John 4:4)

In 2 Corinthians 10:3 Paul describes Christians as waging _____.

What kind of weapons does the military use to fight a war.

How do these verses (verse 5 especially) describe spiritual war?

Spiritual warfare is a "brain war." We use the _____ to destroy the enemies _____.

Christians are in a war, but they are not *at* war.1

Consider 1 John 5:19. As Christians do you have to fight in this war?

Besides avoiding false teachings, in 1 Timothy 4:7, what does Paul tell Timothy to do? _____.

James says to obey (submit) to God and _____ the devil.

How do we resist the devil?

In Romans 10:9, to "confess with your mouth" means to speak _____.

The *confession* we are to make is that _____.

Speaking this out loud in a time of anxiety can ward the enemy spirits away.

Leaders Guide

Spiritual Warfare

1 Page Lesson Plan with Pre-Lesson Activity

Allow 20 minutes for lesson and 15 minutes for activity

The Goal:

The goal of this lesson is to assuage young believers fears about their enemy, encourage them to prepare for battle, and give them a concrete method of defense against spiritual attack. To help them with Satan as the accuser, see my lesson, "Conviction or Condemnation." To teach about false prophets and deceiving spirits see my lesson, "Spotting Counterfeits."

Pre-Lesson Activity:

Play "Barnyard Bedlam." Separate the kids into groups of two or three. Assign an animal to each group (horse, cow, sheep, rooster, etc.). Blindfold everybody and spread them around the room (large room the better). At your signal, each group member must find each other based only on the noise that particular animal makes. I assign a group as Lions and another group as Coyotes as these sounds will tie in with the lesson and verses later.

Leading the lesson:

Read the verses in purple on the lesson plan then ask the corresponding questions. Continue with the verses and questions printed in black. At this point I tell a story about camping, hearing a Coyote howling right outside my tent at night (I identify it by it's sound). Have them make the sound just for fun. At first I was really startled and scared, but, believing that coyotes do not attack humans I was able to relax in my tent and go back to sleep. Discuss how knowledge and understanding of the situation can make you less afraid.

Coyote's are usually harmless but Lions are not. When you get to the question, "As Christians do you have to fight in this war?," the answer is yes. If you are in Lion country (Like we are in Colorado) would you not take precautions to defend against Lions. What kind of precautions? 1 John 5:19 says the whole world is under the enemies control. What precautions should we take to defend against the enemy?

At this point I usually pause and take a group picture of the kids making their best Lion faces, claws out and roaring loudly. It gives them a little break and makes it easier to continue the lesson. This also helps them remember the lesson. E-mail the picture to them later. Taking the "Roar" picture has become an annual tradition they see to like.

Ask the kids how they would identify the enemy if they were fighting a war. The answer you're looking for is, "By their uniform." Baptism is like putting on the Christian uniform. The enemy now recognizes them as a threat. I mention this because I usually use this lesson as a follow-up to my Baptism lesson. I encourage the kids to earnestly prepare themselves and grow their faiths.

I finish the page by suggesting that while internally turning to God, we may verbally rebuke the devil/dark spiritual forces, with audible declarations of our faith and our identity as children of God in Christ. This can be a contentious issue in some denominations but I agree with Dr. Anderson on this view. They can also pray and seek the prayers of others like mom and dad.

Take Prayer Requests:

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Check how things have turned out from the previous week's concerns.

If you have time divide the kids into two groups. Hand each group a roll of toilet paper and have them dress one member of the group in their Christian "uniform." Give a candy prize to the team who uses up their whole roll the fastest.