

THE THEME

This is How We Fight Our Battles: From Victory!

MEMORY VERSE

"... in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." - Romans 8:37

CHALLENGE VERSE

"... be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might."

- Ephesians 6:10

APRIL 23 - LIFE APPLICATION

I fight my battles remembering:

"I may think that I'm surrounded but I'm surrounded by Him."

Note to Parents:

Last week, we began a new sermon series, **This is How We Fight Our Battles: From Victory.** This week, we remember that: "**I may think that I'm surrounded but I'm surrounded by Him.**" What does this mean? Together, read **pages 430-432**(Invisible Army) together in The Action Bible, and use **2 Kings 6:8-23** in your Bible for reference. Note: in The Action Bible the enemies are called Arameans, in the ESV Bible they are called Syrians.

- 1. Read page 430 in The Action Bible. Why was the Aramean (Syrian) king upset? (Because someone kept warning the king of Israel that he was waiting to attack him and his army.) In fact, he thought it must be one of his servants, because they were the only ones who heard him talking about it.
- 2. What did they tell him? (That Elisha was warning the king of Israel, and that somehow he knew everything the king was doing. Elisha was a prophet and God gave him special knowledge.)
- 3. The Syrian king was angry. **What did he do next?** (He found out where the king of Israel was, in the city of Dothan, and he sent his great army to surround the city. They camped there overnight, waiting for morning to attack the king of Israel and his army.)
- 4. Read **2 Kings 6:15-17**. In the morning, the servant saw the army surrounding the city and, frightened, ran to tell Elisha that they were outnumbered. Elisha knew the servant was afraid. **What did he do?** (He prayed, asking God to open the man's eyes so that he could see what was around him.) Look at the picture on the top of **page 431 in The Action Bible**. **What did the servant see?** (They were surrounded by an angel army! In actuality, the Syrians were outnumbered, not the Israelites!)
- 5. What did Elisha do next? (He asked God to blind the Syrian army, and they were helpless. He told them to follow him and he took them to the capital city of Israel.) They thought they would be killed, but what did Elisha do? (He told his servants to give them food and water and he released them! The Syrians did not attack Israel again after that.)

- 6. How did Elisha fight his battle? (Reminding himself and his servant that they were surrounded by an angel army!) He could have attacked the Syrian army since they were blind and helpless. What did he choose to do? (He gave them mercy fed them and let them go.)
- 7. We can fight our battles by asking God for His help and believing that He surrounds us with his angel armies. Sometimes, we can fight our battles by being kind and giving mercy instead of fighting back. God gave Elisha the wisdom to know what to do, and Elisha chose to be kind.

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Choose one or two of these topics and discuss:

- Ask your family: "What do you think of when you hear the words 'fight my battles?" What is a battle? (Pause for discussion.) Usually, we think of a fight between 2 people or a battle that soldiers would have in a war. Those are 2 definitions of battles. But, there are other definitions: "a struggle to succeed or survive" or, "an extended contest, struggle, or controversy." Sometimes, athletes refer to their competitions as battles, or we may battle to make a good grade, or to convince someone of something. We may battle with ourselves to do the right thing when we are tempted to do wrong. Can you think of battles you might have in your life?
- How can knowing that we are surrounded by God and His angel armies help us? (We won't be afraid, because we can trust that God is surrounding us and fighting our battles with us and for us!)
- Read Hebrews 12:1-2. Who are the "cloud of witnesses" watching over our lives? (Those who have gone before us to heaven relatives and loved ones cheering us on to fight the good fight of faith and run the race of perseverance. Also, the people of great faith listed in Hebrews 11, the angels armies and Jesus!)
- In **Hebrews 11**, you can find **the Hall of Faith** listing the people who, through their great faith and trust in Him, did great things for God with their lives. Ask your kids what their lives would be like if they had that kind of faith.
- · March around the house, saying or singing, "I may think that I'm surrounded

but I'm surrounded by Him" over and over again. Let different family members take turns leading!

For Younger Kids:

Together, watch: "Elisha and the Lord's Army | Old Testament Stories for Kids."

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, Help us to have faith in You, that You are surrounding us in our battles and that You are FOR us! Help us to believe so strongly we have already won the victory, and that we will have courage for every battle we face. In Your Name we pray, Amen