

Sermon Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Live Stream May 10, 2020

This guide is a supplement to the weekly sermon. We encourage families and small groups to use it. When we hear God's Word read and explained, we need to do more than listen. The Bible says, "Be doers of the word, not hearers only (James 1:22)." **Step 1: GATHER** with your family or small group. **Step 2: REVIEW** and **DISCUSS** the key points and scriptures from the sermon using the Discussion Guide (see below). **Step 3: PRAY** for the prayer requests shared by your family or small group.

Discussion Guide: The Battle

Discussion Starter 1: Discuss with your small group or family the events or seasons of your life that have felt like a battle. Was it a time where you felt like someone was attacking you? How did you make it through that time?

Discussion Starter 2: In Ephesians 6:10-18, we find Paul's teaching about spiritual warfare. He says that, "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood." Paul is speaking about a war with a real enemy, Satan. Talk with your small group or family about how you have experienced spiritual attacks and spiritual victories in your life as a Christian.

Self-Evaluation: Read Colossians 1:13-14. Have you personally experienced what these verses say? How have you been rescued by Jesus? What evidence is there in your life that you have been forgiven and are no longer under the powers of darkness and sin? If you have never experienced this rescue, pray right now and call out to Jesus and trust Him and be saved.

Going Deeper: Read Ephesians 6:10-18. Divide your small group or family into a few equal teams. Give each team a couple pieces of the armor mentioned in Ephesians 6 to study and be prepared to share their own insights into the armor of God. Have your teams share what they came up with during that time. Take time to discuss each part of the armor of God. What were some facts Sam shared about the armor and sword that really stood out to you?

Doing the Word: Pastor Sam said, "We must be mobile, flexible, and ready to advance the truth of Jesus at all times." In other words, we are not simply to be on the defense against Satan, but we are to advance. Because Jesus has been victorious for us, we can do battle with our enemy and drive Him back. At the same time, we can push forward with the good news about Jesus Christ. Satan does not want us to live for Jesus or tell others about Jesus. Yet, we are called to build the kingdom of God. We need to be ready for Satan's attacks and then be ready to counter the attack with the Word of God thrust in the power of prayer in Jesus' name. Take some time with your small group or family to strategize how to be ready for Satan's attacks and to push forward to advance the gospel with those around you.