



SALLY MICHAEL



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Truth78 is a vision-oriented ministry for the next generations—that they may know, honor, and treasure God, setting their hope in Christ alone, so that they will live as faithful disciples for the glory of God.

Our mission is to nurture the faith of the next generations by equipping the church and home with resources and training that instruct the mind, engage the heart, and influence the will through proclaiming the whole counsel of God.

We equip churches and parents by producing curriculum for Sunday School, Midweek Bible, Intergenerational, Youth, and Backyard Bible Club settings; vision-casting and training resources (many available free on our website) for both the church and the home; materials and training to help parents in their role in discipling children; and the Fighter Verses Bible memory program to encourage the lifelong practice and love of Bible memory.

Truth:78

Truth78
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All of us are in a battle. Everyone is either an unbeliever fighting against God, or a believer fighting the fight of faith with God's help. Joining the fight of faith is a work of grace. Completing the fight of faith is also a work of grace, for it is God Himself who works in us to persevere in faith (Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13).

Fight the Good Fight is about persevering to the end. To persevere, one must fight. In a battle, there is no room for passivity. There is no room for compromise. There is no vacation from the battle. You must fight...and you must keep on fighting. And you must never give up because, in Jesus, there is the wonderful promise of victory and an eternal home.

However, if you are a believer, you are not alone in the fight of faith. God Himself fights with you to keep you persevering in faith until the end. And God is always victorious. This is the message of *Fight the Good Fight*.

A Note to Parents

The decision to include a Student Notebook with the curriculum, *Fight the Good Fight*, is very intentional. Your child's completed Student Notebook can serve as an important reminder of what has been learned. We encourage you to review these precious truths with your child and to initiate discussions about the main ideas of each lesson. If you do this from time to time, these truths may stay with your child for years.

It is our hope that, through this study, your child might learn to battle sin and Satan more effectively, and to depend on God more fully and trust in His promises. May God bless you as you encourage your child to fight the fight of faith and persevere to the end. And may your child be able to say one day:

***I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.
—2 Timothy 4:7***

Fight the Good Fight Buttons

There are four buttons you can earn this year as you study *Fight the Good Fight*. Your teacher and leaders may allow some time in class to work on earning these buttons, but you will do most of this work at home.



Fighter Verse—Memorize 50 Fighter Verses.TM



Reading for Victory—Read *The War for Mansoul*, a John Bunyan classic as told by Ethel Barrett. Or, girls might opt to read *Hinds' Feet on High Places* by Hannah Hurnard,¹ or *Stepping Heavenward* by Elizabeth Prentiss.



Spiritual Warfare—Write and illustrate a book for younger children to teach them about spiritual warfare.



The Fight of Faith—Identify one area in which you need to experience a faith victory (for example, over fear, pride, laziness). Write a summary of your struggle and the strategies you will employ to gain victory in that area. Then make a commitment to daily pray about that struggle for 30 days, keeping a log of your fight of faith over that time, and noting your successes and failures and what you are learning in the process. Memorize at least one verse to help you with this struggle.

¹The choice of *Hinds' Feet on High Places* should not be seen as an endorsement of other books written by Hannah Hurnard.

Fighter Verse Record Sheet



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The Heart Condition

MAIN IDEAS

- **The heart involves a person's whole being.**
- **Man's heart is evil.**
- **Every person is born with a sin nature.**

KEY VERSE

The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.—Genesis 6:5

SCRIPTURE

1) Genesis 6:5

3) Jeremiah 17:9

5) Ephesians 2:3

2) Psalm 51:5

4) Romans 5:12, 19

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*No man knows how bad he is
till he has tried very hard
to be good.*

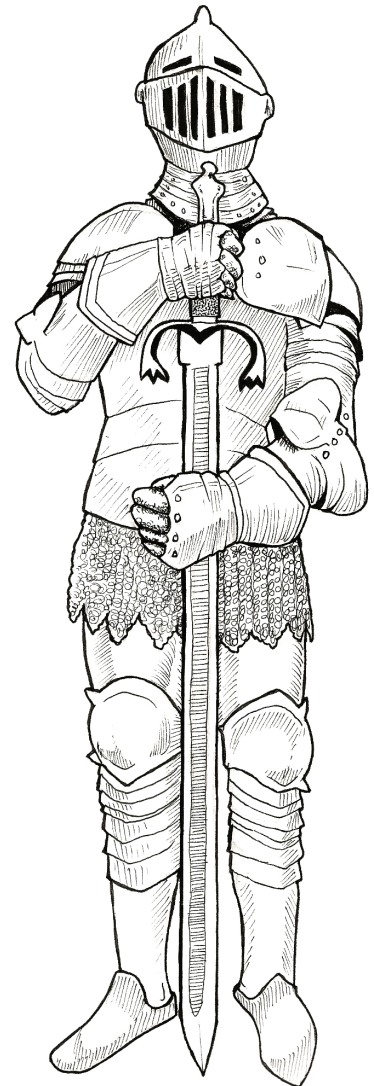
—C.S. Lewis

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

After reading about “The Heart Condition” below, write a banner headline for the awful news about the condition of the human heart. Then, under the smaller news headlines, list 3-5 common sins that flow from our hearts. Next, read the “Check it Out” section and discuss your responses to the questions with your small group.

The Heart Condition

We tend to think of the evil in man's heart as the really obviously evil things people do, like murder, or kidnapping, or robbing a bank. But everyone has a sin nature that results in sinful thoughts, attitudes, speech, or actions. This sin makes us unworthy and unfit to be in the presence of a holy God, and condemns us to hell.



Daily Tribune

Sinful Thoughts

Sinful Attitudes

Sinful Speech

Sinful Actions

CHECK IT OUT

“Context” refers to the setting of an event or statement. The context is important to know in order to determine meaning or to correctly understand something. For example, the statement, “That looks good,” takes on its meaning depending on the context. What does it mean when you look at someone eating an ice cream sundae and you say, “That looks good”? We could put an exclamation point by that statement! The meaning is clear that you really think the sundae would taste good. But what if you made this statement in reference to a pan of burnt cookies? What does it mean now? It is a statement of sarcasm...You may be saying the cookies look good, but you really mean they look and certainly would taste awful. The context lends meaning to the statement.

A verse in the Bible must be understood according to its context, too—the verses around it, the chapter, and the book where it is found. So, let’s do a little investigating!

- What is the context of Genesis 6:5?
- What can you learn about the implications of the evil in man’s heart by the context?

Where Is the Battle?

MAIN IDEAS

- Actions flow from the heart.
- Everyone is in a spiritual battle.
- The battle for faith is in the heart.
- True heart change is a work of God; it cannot happen through our own efforts.

KEY VERSE

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you?—James 4:1

SCRIPTURE

1) Luke 6:43-45

2) James 4:1

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*Everyone is in a spiritual battle.
You are either not a Christian and you have a rebellious heart fighting against God,
or you are a Christian fighting the fight of faith with God's help.
The battle for faith takes place in our hearts.*

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Read James 4:1-4 a few times, thinking about the logic of the passage. Then fill out the diagram as explained below.

- Fill in the question and answer from verse 1 in the appropriate shapes.
- Fill in the remaining lines on the heart with the examples of heart attitudes given in verse 2.
- The arrows indicate that actions occur out of the attitudes of the heart. Fill in the resulting actions for each heart attitude in the starburst shape.
- Fill in the next three shapes in the diagram as indicated—the first two rectangles and the arrow.
- In the James 4:4 conversation bubble, note how James labels the readers. Then, write his conclusion in the world image and the starburst.

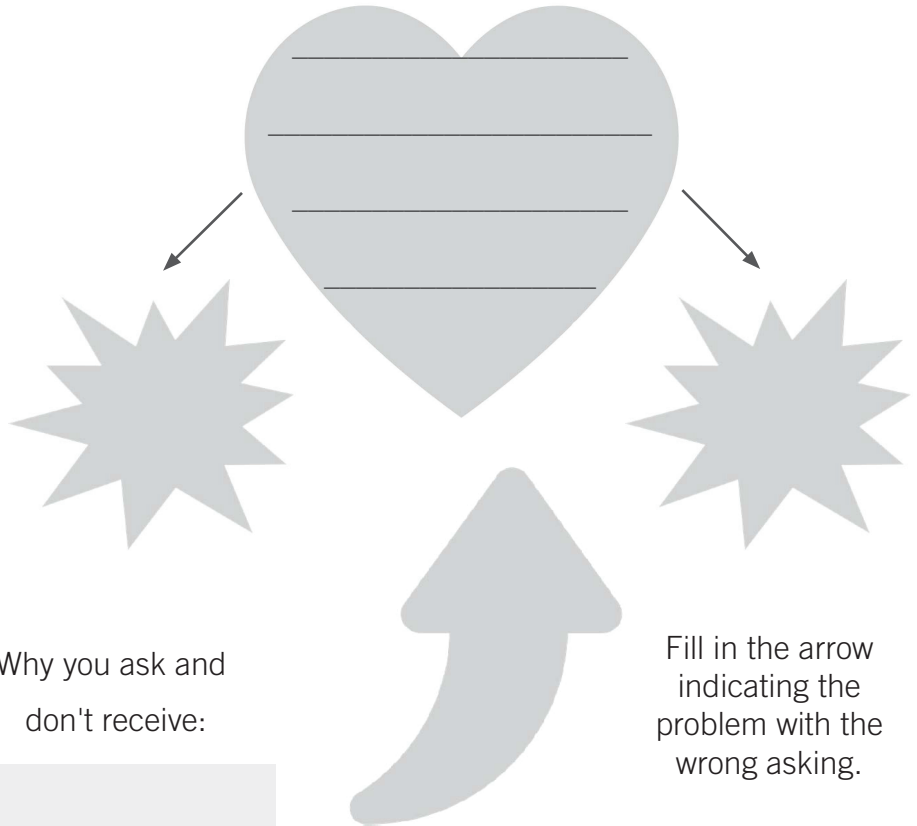
In the following passage, James asks a question, answers the question, gives practical examples of the answer, gives the problem underlying the problem, and gives a warning.

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.—James 4:1-4

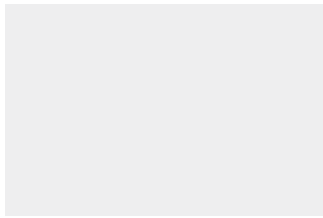
The Question (verse 1):



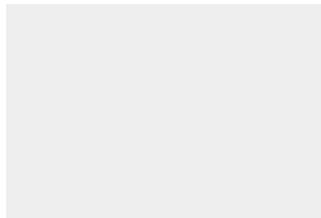
The Answer (verse 1) and Examples (verse 2):



Why you don't receive:



Why you ask and
don't receive:



James 4:4



=



TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR SMALL GROUP

- What are some of the passions that war within us?
- Why does James call us “adulterous people”?
- What are some things we can treasure too much?
- In what ways is friendship with the world making us an enemy of God?

Saved by Grace

MAIN IDEAS

- Because of his stubborn and unrepentant heart, man deserves the wrath of God.
- The grace of God saves man from the wrath of God.
- Salvation is by grace through faith initiated by God to those He has chosen.
- God calls people to faith through the preaching of the gospel.

KEY VERSES

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.—Ephesians 2:8-9

SCRIPTURE

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1) John 6:37 | 3) Romans 2:5 | 5) Ephesians 2:8-9 |
| 2) Acts 6-8:1 | 4) Ephesians 1:3-4 | 6) Hebrews 3:7-8 |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*If you perish in hell, blame yourself, as it is entirely your fault.
But if you should make it to heaven, credit God,
for that is entirely His work!
To Him alone belong all praise and glory,
for salvation is all of grace, from start to finish.*

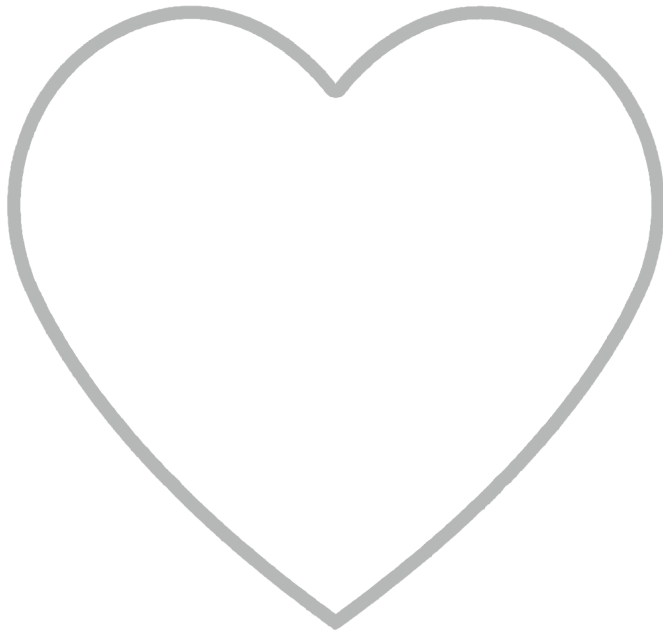
—Mark Webb

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

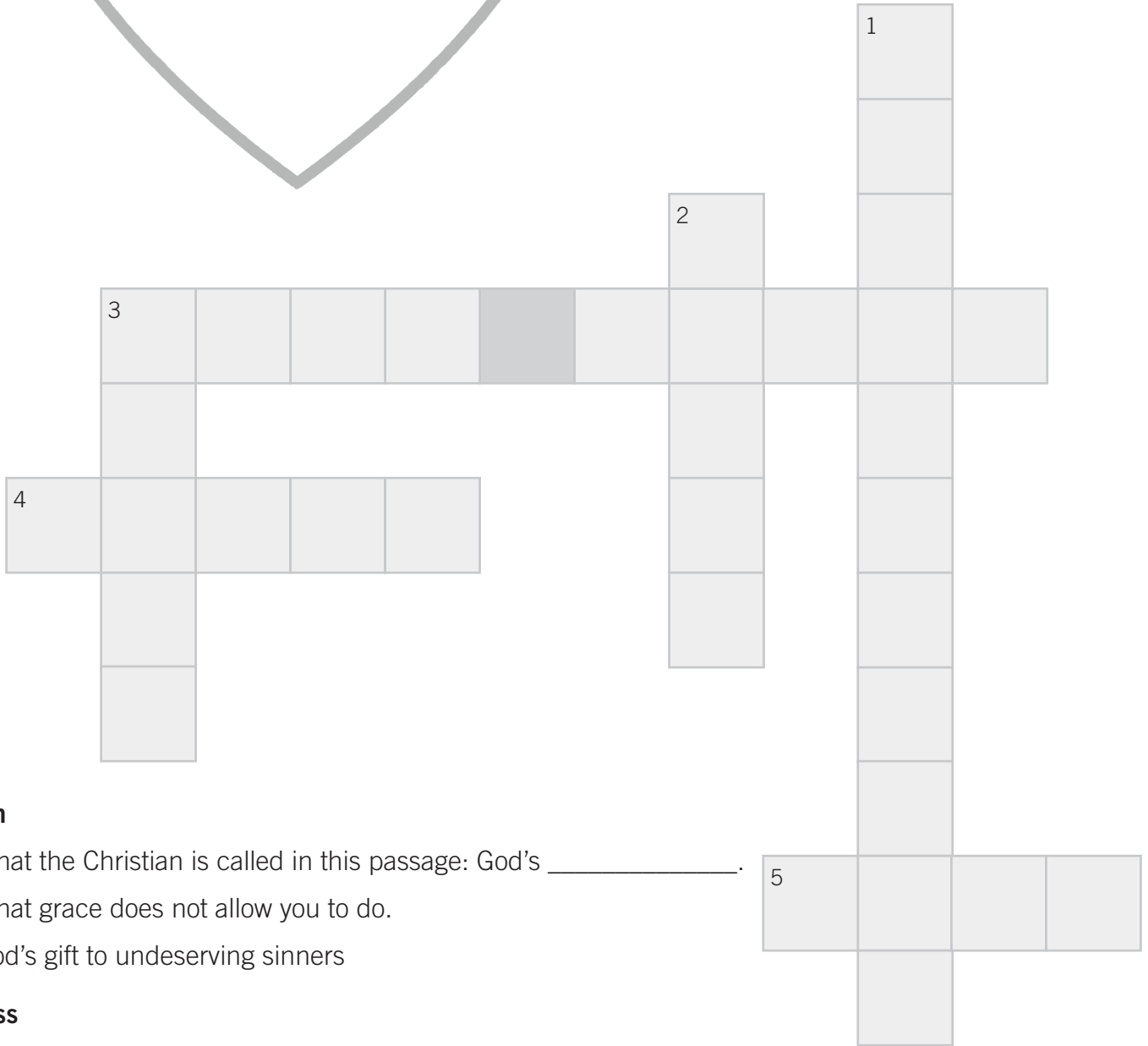
Read the Scripture passages noted and follow the directions. Then, complete the crossword puzzle. The two pages that follow include a Salvation Diagram that you will complete as your teacher presents the next few lessons. As you fill in the missing information, think about where you are in the diagram.

Read Ephesians 2:1-3. In the gift box, write some words that describe the natural man (as we are born before trusting in Jesus) and his actions.





Read Ephesians 2:4-7. In the heart, write some words or phrases that describe God and what He has done.

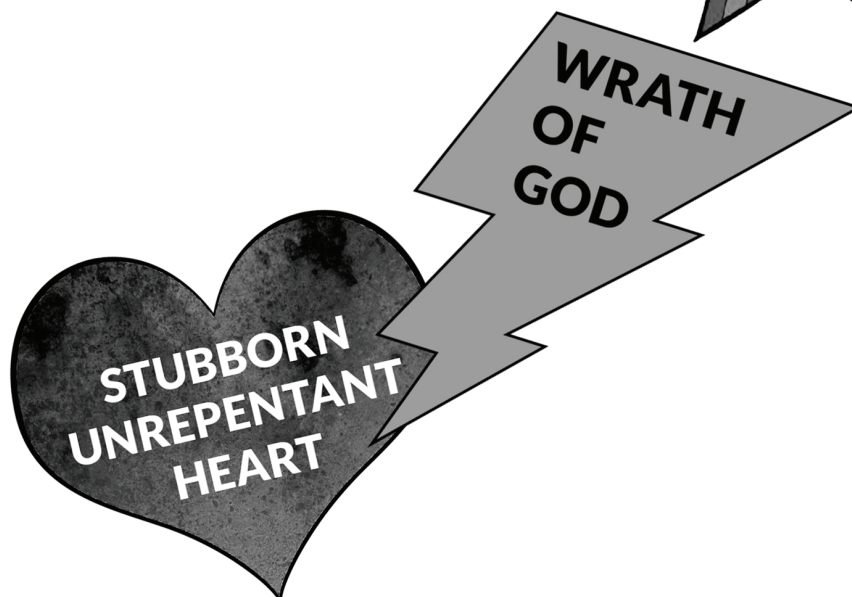
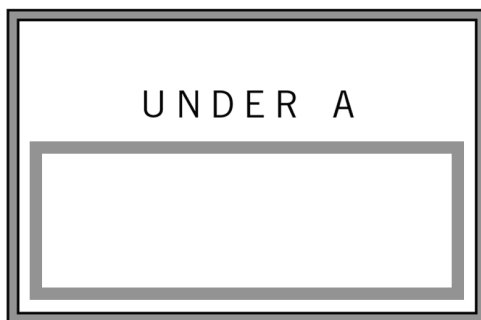


Down


- 1) What the Christian is called in this passage: God's _____.
- 2) What grace does not allow you to do.
- 3) God's gift to undeserving sinners

Across

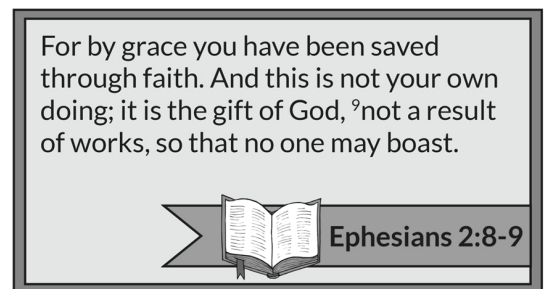
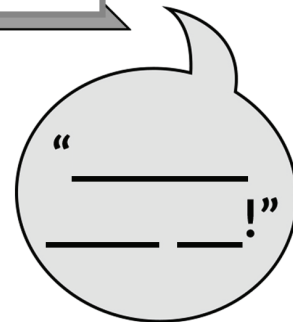
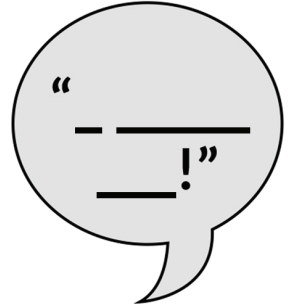
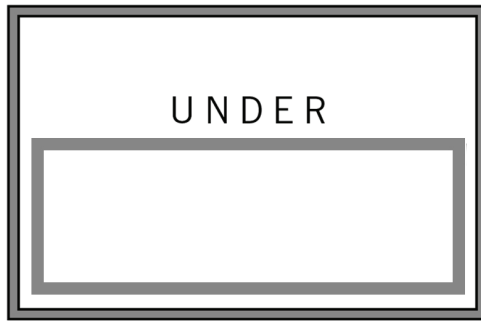
- 3) Something we were created to do.
- 4) Trusting in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of your sins
- 5) Salvation is not something that can be earned, but is a _____.



But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. (NIV 1984)

 Romans 2:5





God Changes Hearts—Regeneration

MAIN IDEAS

- Man is powerless to change his heart.
- God knows the heart of man.
- Only God can change the heart.

KEY VERSE

“And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,”—Ezekiel 11:19

SCRIPTURE

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Genesis 6:5 | 4) Jeremiah 17:9 | 7) Acts 5:1-11 |
| 2) 1 Kings 8:39 | 5) Ezekiel 11:19 | 8) 1 Peter 1:23 |
| 3) 1 Chronicles 28:9 | 6) Acts 1:24 | 9) 1 John 3:9 |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

Every part of us is affected by regeneration.

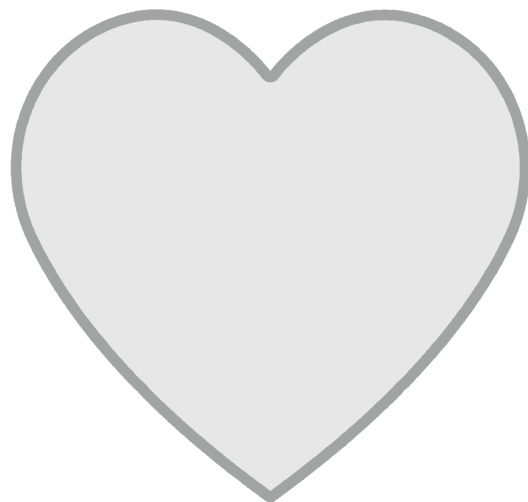
—Wayne Grudem

God is the decisive cause of unhardening my heart, but my acting is a real, essential part of the miracle taking place.

—John Piper

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

In the heart images, write the attitudes, thoughts, and actions that come out of each kind of heart. Then decode the message.



God Changes Hearts—Regeneration

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TWO VERSES TO THINK ABOUT

2 Corinthians 5:17—Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

1 John 3:9—No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.

Conversion—Faith and Repentance

MAIN IDEAS

- **Conversion is turning toward Christ and away from sin.**
- **Conversion involves faith and repentance.**
- **Faith encompasses the mind, heart, and will.**
- **The Bible warns us to examine our hearts and see if we truly are Christians.**

KEY VERSE

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.—Hebrews 11:6

SCRIPTURE

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Psalm 86:11 | 4) Mark 1:14-15 | 7) Hebrews 11:6 |
| 2) Isaiah 55:6 | 5) Romans 10:13 | |
| 3) Matthew 15:8 | 6) 2 Corinthians 13:5 | |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

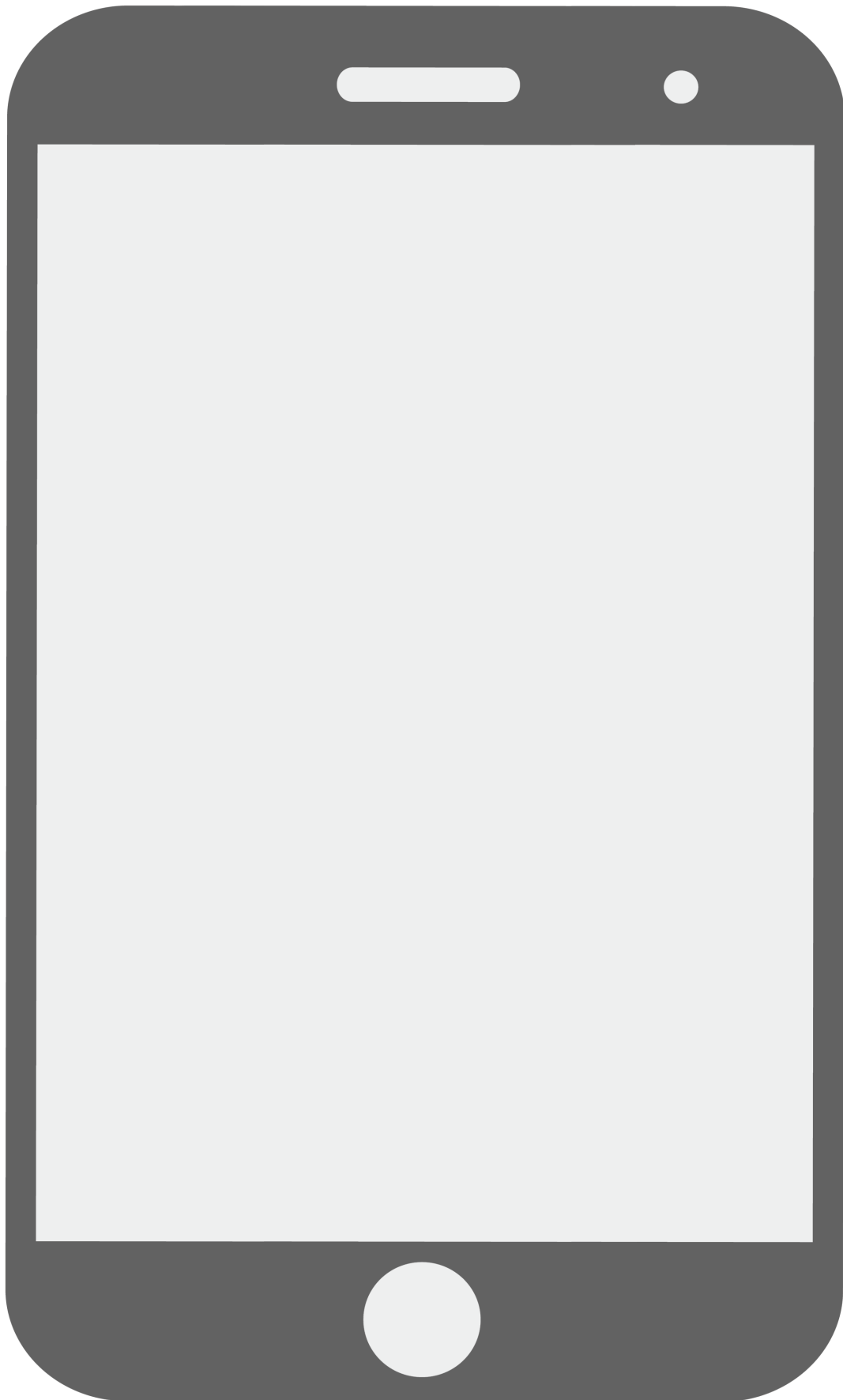
*Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.*

*Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling...*

—from the hymn *Rock of Ages* by Augustus M. Toplady
(respite means “rest;” atone means “to make payment” or “to make up for”)

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

With a partner, “text” back and forth your thoughts about today’s lesson. One person should write your text message in the text box, and then pass your notebook to your partner to reply. Add emoticons just like a real text. Keep texting back and forth until the phone is filled with texts. (Your partner’s notebook will be blank.) Then, switch partners in your small group, partnering a person with a blank notebook with someone with a completed notebook.



Justification and Adoption

MAIN IDEAS

- God declares those who have faith in Jesus as righteous.
- The only way to be justified before God is through faith in Jesus.
- God adopts as His own those who have been justified.

KEY VERSE

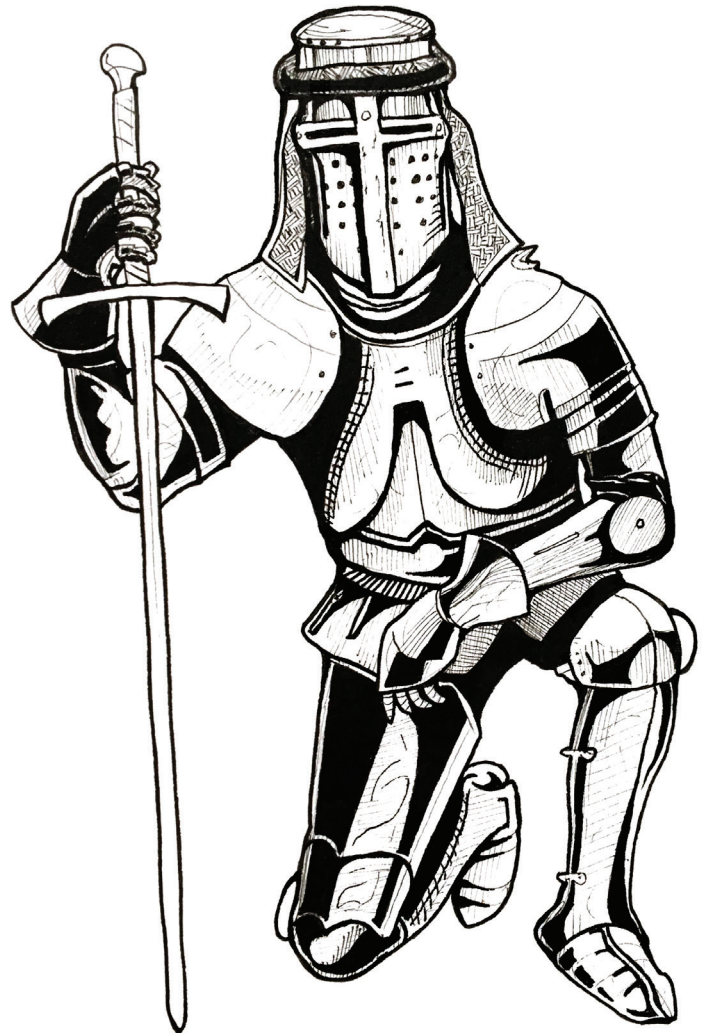
There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.—Romans 8:1

SCRIPTURE

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1) John 1:12 | 3) Romans 8:1 |
| 2) Romans 3:22-24 | 4) Galatians 2:16 |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*Who is to have authority in the
matter of gracious adoption?
The children of wrath?
Surely not;
and yet all men are such!
No, it stands to reason,
to common sense,
that none but the parent can
have the discretion to adopt.
—Charles Spurgeon*



HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Write a sentence about what the word “justification” means for each of the letters in the word “JUSTIFICATION” on the next page. Then, the do the same for the word “ADOPTION.” Work on this individually or in pairs, as directed by your small group leader, and then share your sentences with your small group.

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The Battle Isn't Over—Sanctification

MAIN IDEAS

- Christians are in a spiritual battle; the battle for faith and against sin does not end at salvation.
- God fights the battle with us; God is working to keep His children persevering in faith.
- God will complete His work in His children; God is true to His promise to complete His work in us because His reputation is at stake.

KEY VERSES

...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.—Philippians 2:12b-13

SCRIPTURE

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Psalm 86:11 | 3) Philippians 1:6 | 5) Hebrews 3:14 |
| 2) 1 Corinthians 1:8-9 | 4) Philippians 2:12-13 | |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*What God creates in the new birth
is not a sinless Christian,
but a sin fighter.*

—John Piper

HERE'S WHAT TO DO TO COMPLETE THE SALVATION DIAGRAM

Go back to the second set of pages for Lesson 3 to finish labeling the Salvation Diagram.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Read Romans 7:14-20. There, we see that Paul, a Christian, is in a battle—a battle with sin and a battle for faith—and that God and His ways are more satisfying than sin. Every Christian is still in a battle. Read what Pastor Mark Vroegop said about this passage, and discuss his illustration with your group. Then, write one or more illustrations of your own, and share what you wrote with your group. Record some of their ideas in your notebook, too. Then pray, thanking God for His promise in Philippians 1:6.

Fighting against the Current of Culture and the Gravitational Pull of the Flesh

One of the most hopeful things about this text and others in the New Testament is the vision of what the Christian life is all about. And the vision is not one of a person who is perfect and coasting toward the finish line of eternity. The vision is more like a person walking up an escalator while everyone else is riding down. The Christian life is a fight against the current of culture and the gravitational pull of the flesh. It is coming to terms with your own powerlessness while looking to Jesus for your deliverance.

The Christian life will be filled with setbacks and failures. Following Jesus will never happen without high points and low points. And it feels very refreshing to hear Paul acknowledge the tension, the frustration, and the challenge. Because what Christian among us has not said, “Why did I do that?” or “What was I thinking?”

Do you know what this text does for us? It puts words to the battle that every follower of Jesus feels. It explains what is happening. It calls us to not throw in the towel on our fight with indwelling sin.¹

To Discuss

How is the Christian life like walking up the down escalator? Give an example. What happens if you “stand still”?

The Christian life is like... (Write your ideas on the steps of the escalator below.)



PRAY, THANKING GOD FOR THIS PROMISE

Philippians 1:6—And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

1. Vroegop, Mark. “Is the Law Bad or Good or What?” sermon delivered at College Park Church of Indianapolis, Indiana, ©College Park Church, www.yourchurch.com

Be a Fighter!

MAIN IDEAS

- **We are in a spiritual battle.**
- **All of life is spiritual; every battle we face is a spiritual battle.**
- **We must fight if we are to win the battle.**

KEY VERSE

Fight the good fight of the faith.—1 Timothy 6:12a

SCRIPTURE

1) Numbers 13-14

3) Acts 4

5) Ephesians 6:10-13

2) 1 Samuel 17

4) Acts 20:35b

6) 1 Timothy 6:12a

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*God never gives strength for tomorrow
or for the next hour,
but only for the strain of the moment.*
—Oswald Chambers

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Read the true story about Richard Wurmbrand. Then write a word of encouragement (in the note shape) that you would give him in prison if that had been possible. Then think about the quote at the bottom of the page.

Richard Wurmbrand's Story

Richard Wurmbrand was born Jewish and later became an atheist. In 1936, he married Sabina Oster, and two years later they both trusted in Jesus and were given new hearts. Richard became a pastor, and he and Sabina began ministering in their home country of Romania. During World War II, they shared the gospel with the occupying German soldiers, preached in bomb shelters, and rescued Jewish children. They were arrested several times and beaten. But they still continued to trust in Jesus and fight the fight of faith.

After the war, Romania was occupied by the Russians. Though the communist government persecuted Christians, the Wurmbrands continued to witness to fellow Romanians and even to Russian soldiers. In spite of the danger of their activities, they smuggled in and gave away more than a million copies of the gospel portions of the Bible to Russian soldiers.

Richard Wurmbrand's Story Continued

During a gathering that the communist government organized for religious leaders, the Wurmbrands heard leader after leader pledge their loyalty to the communist government and speak of the glories of communism. But in reality the communist government tried to take control of the churches and imprisoned many church leaders. Both Richard and Sabina were saddened and sickened by the cowardly behavior of the church leaders. Sabina turned to Richard and said:

Richard, stand up and wash away this shame from the face of Christ.

Richard answered her, "If I do, you'll lose your husband." What do you think Sabina replied? She said, "I don't wish to have a coward as a husband."¹

What do you think Richard did? There were 4,000 leaders at the gathering. The communist government had imprisoned, beaten, and tortured many Christians. What would you do? The speeches were broadcast on the radio throughout the country of Romania. Richard stood up...and clearly spoke up that the duty of the church is to glorify God and Christ alone!

Later, Richard was taken by the secret police and imprisoned in a cell 30 feet underground, where he never saw the sun, stars, trees, or even other prisoners. He was in solitary confinement in absolute silence. The guards even wore felt on their shoes to muffle the sound. He had no Bible, heard no sermons, no encouragement from fellow Christians. How could he fight the fight of faith?

Richard was imprisoned for a total of 14 years. For years, he had to sit still for 17 hours a day and listen to repeated phrases: "Communism is good...

Communism is good...Communism is good...

Christianity is stupid...Christianity is stupid...

Christianity is stupid...Nobody believes in Christ...

Nobody believes in Christ...Nobody believes in

Christ...Give up!...Give up!...Give up!" Did Richard give up?

No! He fought the fight of faith, he refused to deny Christ, though he was promised his freedom if he did.

He stood firm and strong. God sustained Richard

Wurmbrand in his prison cell. Later, Richard was

released and continued witnessing for Christ. He

eventually started a ministry called Voice of the Martyrs.

TO THINK ABOUT

*...there were two kinds of Christians:
those who sincerely believe in God
and those who, just as sincerely, believe that they believe.
You can tell them apart by their actions in decisive moments.*

—Richard Wurmbrand from his book, *In God's Underground*

1. From Richard Wurmbrand's book, *Tortured for Christ*.

Battlegrounds—Unbelief

MAIN IDEAS

- One battleground in the fight of faith is the battle against unbelief.
- God is faithful and good though we fail.
- Remembering the goodness, faithfulness, and mighty acts of God helps us battle unbelief.

KEY VERSE

“I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”—Mark 9:24b (NIV 1984)

SCRIPTURE

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Psalm 77:3, 7-9, 11-12 | 3) Psalm 78:12-29, 32 | 5) Hebrews 3:14 |
| 2) Psalm 77:16-20 | 4) Mark 9:17-26 | |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*All the sinful states of our hearts are owing to unbelief
in God’s super-abounding willingness and ability
to work for us in every situation of life
so that everything turns out for our good.*

*Anxiety, misplaced shame, indifference, regret, covetousness,
envy, lust, bitterness, impatience, despondency, pride—
these are all sprouts from the root of unbelief
in the promises of God.*

—John Piper

HERE’S WHAT TO DO NEXT

We can have confidence in God because of His trustworthy character. In the first box, list some of God’s characteristics that show He can be trusted. In the second box, give some examples of what trust in God looks like. In the last box, list some of God’s acts from the Bible, history, or the life of your family that demonstrate God’s trustworthy character.

God's Trustworthy Character

What Trust in God Looks Like

God's Faithful Acts

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. ¹²I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds.—Psalm 77:11-12

TO SHARE

Share your lists with your small group.

Battlegrounds—Pride

MAIN IDEAS

- **A battleground of the heart is pride.**
- **Pride exhibits itself in different ways.**
- **Pride unchecked leads to destruction.**

KEY VERSE

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”—1 Peter 5:5b

SCRIPTURE

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1) 2 Chronicles 26:3-21 | 4) Proverbs 29:23 | 7) 1 Peter 5:5b |
| 2) Psalm 10:4 | 5) Isaiah 2:17 | |
| 3) Proverbs 16:18 | 6) Philippians 2:3 | |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*As long as you are proud you cannot know God.
A proud man is always looking down on things and people:
and, of course, as long as you are looking down
you cannot see something that is above you.*

—C.S. Lewis from *Mere Christianity*

*True humility is not thinking less of yourself;
it is thinking of yourself less.*

—C.S. Lewis

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Fill in the blanks, and note a real-life example for each of the ways pride shows itself. Then share it with your small group.

BATTLEGROUND—PRIDE

P

erceiving _____ as better than _____.

Example:

R

elying on _____ rather than on _____.

Example:

I

nflating your opinion of _____.

Example:

D

enying your _____.

Example:

E

levating _____ rather than _____.

Example:

*If you know who God is and you know who you are,
there is only room for humility.*

—A.W. Tozer

Battlegrounds—Rebellion

MAIN IDEAS

- A battleground of the heart is rebellion.
- Rebellion is resisting God and what is right.
- Jesus was submissive to the Father in all things, and He is our example.
- We must fight rebellion when it is small so that it does not consume our hearts.

KEY VERSE

I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.—Psalm 40:8

SCRIPTURE

1) Psalm 40:8

2) Matthew 26:36-45

3) Luke 5:1-11

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

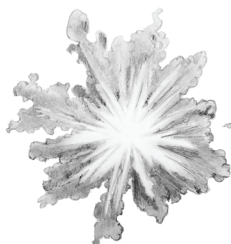
*The beginning of men's rebellion against God was,
and is, the lack of a thankful heart.*

—Francis Schaeffer

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

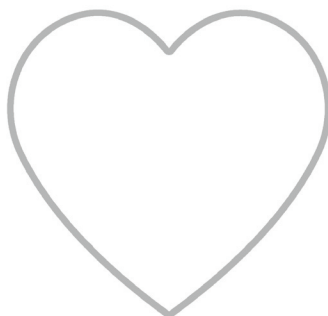
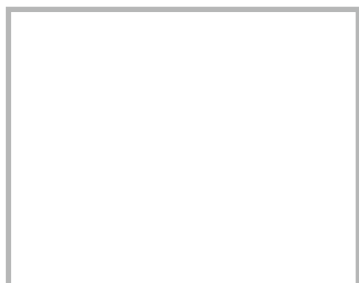
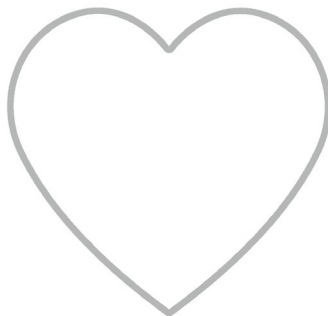
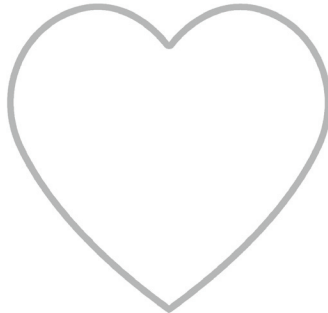
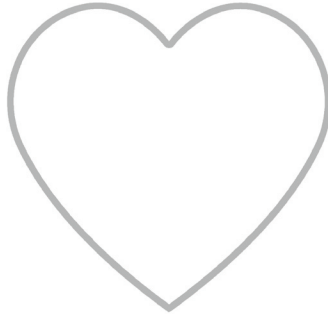
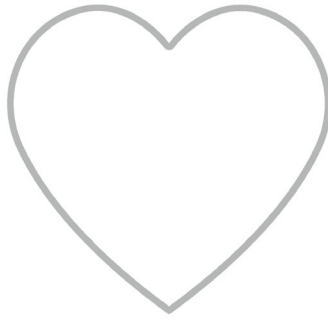
Every day you make choices. Those choices either feed the monster of rebellion, or teach you submission. In each square, write about a situation you were in. On the heart, write what was in your heart. On the hand, write your action—what you did. (For example: Mom told me to take out the garbage; frustration; did it anyway.) Then, consider the number of times you obeyed with a submissive heart, the number of times you rebelled, and the number of times you fought rebellion in your heart and did what was right even when your heart wasn't delighting in it.

REBELLION



SUBMISSION





TO THINK ABOUT

Would you like to truly say in your heart, “I delight to do your will, O my God”?

Battlegrounds—Spirit of Fear

MAIN IDEAS

- **Good fear (fear of the right things) comes from God, but a fearful spirit comes from a sinful heart.**
- **Christians do not have to accept a spirit of fear; we can fight against a fearful spirit.**
- **A spirit of fear is defeated by focusing on God, rather than on our fear.**
- **A spirit of fear is defeated by having a greater fear of God than our fear of men or other things.**

KEY VERSE

...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.—2 Timothy 1:7

SCRIPTURE

1) Numbers 13:17-31

3) Acts 5:17-42

5) 2 Timothy 1:7

2) Matthew 14:25-33

4) Romans 8:9, 12-15

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*Martin Luther, when he walked in the woods,
used to raise his hat to the birds and say,
“Good morning, theologians—you wake and sing,
but I, old fool, know less than you and worry over everything,
instead of simply trusting in the heavenly Father’s care.”*

—Richard Wurmbrand from *In God's Underground*

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

In the “Do Not Be Afraid” section, underline the promises that show God’s children the reasons they should not be afraid. In the “Promises to Those Who Fear the Lord” section, underline God’s promises. (You may either work alone, with a partner, or as a small group.)

Then, read the “What to Do When Afraid” and “Why We Fear” sections and think about the questions. If there is time, discuss your thoughts.

Do Not Be Afraid

“You shall not fear them, for it is the LORD your God who fights for you.”—Deuteronomy 3:22

“It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.”—Deuteronomy 31:8

*Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart.
For consider what great things he has done for you.—1 Samuel 12:24*

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”—Joshua 1:9

*The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?
—Psalm 118:6*

“fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”—Isaiah 41:10

“For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, ‘Fear not, I am the one who helps you.’”—Isaiah 41:13

*So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”
—Hebrew 13:6*



Promises to Those Who Fear the Lord

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.—Psalm 34:7

Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!—Psalm 34:9

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;—Psalm 103:11

*As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
—Psalm 103:13*

What to Do When Afraid

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. ⁴In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?—Psalm 56:3-4

Q. What should you do when you are afraid? Practically, how do you do this?

Why We Fear

(The context of the following Scripture passage is when the disciples were in the boat with Jesus, and they were afraid of the storm.)

And they went and woke him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing.” And he said to them, “Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?” Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.—Matthew 8:25-26

Q. What is the source of all our fear? How can you grow in your faith and confidence in God?

Battlegrounds—Self

MAIN IDEAS

- A battleground of the heart is SELF.
- Seeing that God is supreme helps fight the battle of SELF.
- Understanding that our lives do not belong to ourselves because we have been bought with a price helps fight the battle of SELF.
- Believing that we have been created for God's glory helps fight the battle of SELF.

KEY VERSE

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."—Luke 9:23b

SCRIPTURE

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Job 38:4-5, 8, 12, 19-22, 35 | 4) Isaiah 43:7 | 7) 1 Corinthians 10:31 |
| 2) Job 39:19, 26-27 | 5) Luke 9:23 | |
| 3) Job 40:2-4 | 6) 1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a | |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*Sin makes us glory thieves...
Sin causes us to steal the story and rewrite it
with ourselves as the lead, and with our lives at center stage.
But there is only one stage and it belongs to the Lord.
Any attempt to put ourselves in his place
puts us in a war with him.*

—Paul Tripp from *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Inside the "SELF" letters, write actions, thoughts, or words that express a heart attitude of "self" or "me." Inside the "GOD" letters, write actions, thoughts, or words that express the heart of a person living for the glory of God (to show God's greatness and worth). You may work alone, in pairs, or as a small group.

SELF
GOOD

*“If anyone would come after me,
let him deny himself and take up
his cross daily and follow me.”—Luke 9:23b*

Expect Obstacles...and Never Give Up!

MAIN IDEAS

- Expect obstacles to your faith, and be prepared for them.
- Do not give up in the fight of faith; persevere to the end.
- There is a reward waiting for those who persevere and finish the fight of faith.

KEY VERSE

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.—2 Timothy 4:7

SCRIPTURE

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1) Nehemiah 4 | 4) 2 Timothy 3:12 |
| 2) Nehemiah 6 | 5) 2 Timothy 4:7-8 |
| 3) Romans 15:4 | |

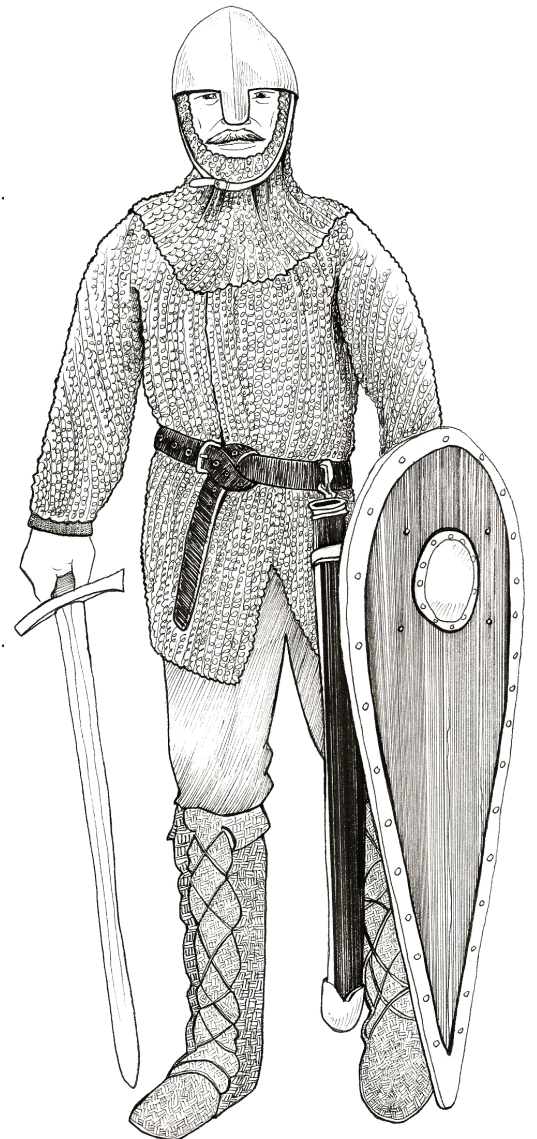
QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*Sometimes when we get
overwhelmed we forget
how big God is.*

—A.W. Tozer

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Unscramble the words. You may work alone, in pairs, or as a group. Then, write a few word scrambles that threaten your faith, and ask someone else to unscramble the words.



I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.—2 Timothy 4:7-8

There are many obstacles or distractions to growing in faith. These are not all bad, but they can become harmful if they are not used rightly, or if they take up too much of your time or fill your heart. Find out what these potential threats to your faith are.

ifednsr _____

Isicao dimae _____

tspros _____

sssssopineo _____

This one might be hard, so here is a hint: pretending that you are a Christian, or that you are a more faithful Christian than you are; not being honest about where you are spiritually.

phyiscoyr _____

Write your own scrambled words here:

●

●



To Discuss

With your small group, discuss how these things can be harmful, and how they can be used properly. How can they be helpful?

The Enemy's Tactics and Our Weapons—Part 1

MAIN IDEAS

- **Knowing Satan's tactics helps Christians to defeat him.**
- **All of life is spiritual.**
- **Spiritual battles are fought with spiritual weapons.**
- **Satan is persistent.**

KEY VERSES

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. —Ephesians 6:10-12

SCRIPTURE

1) Nehemiah 4:1-9

2) 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

3) Ephesians 6:10-12

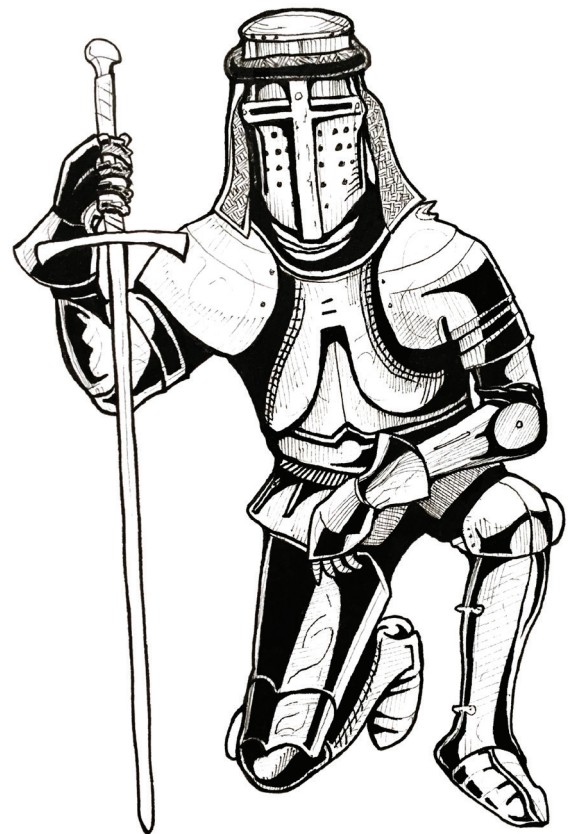
QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*We may pray with our
eyes on God, not on our
difficulties.*

—Oswald Chambers

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Decorate the poster. Think about the message and discuss it with your small group.



**THE ENEMY'S TACTICS
AND OUR WEAPONS**

WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood...—Ephesians 6:12a

**FIGHT SPIRITUAL BATTLES
WITH SPIRITUAL WEAPONS**

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh...—2 Corinthians 10:4a

SATAN HAS MANY TACTICS

...for we are not ignorant of his designs.—2 Corinthians 2:11b

**WE HAVE A WEAPON AGAINST
EVERY TACTIC OF SATAN**

*But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
—1 Corinthians 15:57*

The Enemy's Tactics and Our Weapons—Part 2

MAIN IDEAS

- **Knowing Satan's tactics helps Christians to defeat him.**
- **All of life is spiritual.**
- **Spiritual battles are fought with spiritual weapons.**
- **Satan is a liar and a deceiver.**
- **Satan is persistent.**

KEY VERSES

*For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.
—2 Corinthians 10:3-4*

SCRIPTURE

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Nehemiah 4:10-23 | 3) John 8:44 |
| 2) Nehemiah 6:1-15 | 4) 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 |

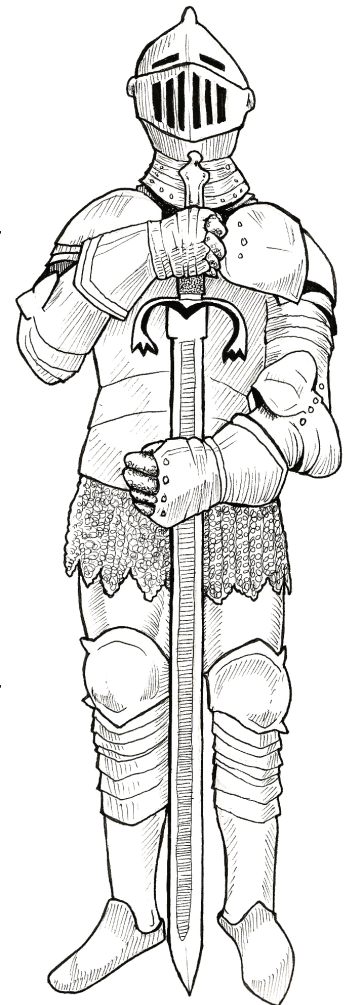
QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*The reason why many fail in battle
is because they wait
until the hour of battle.*

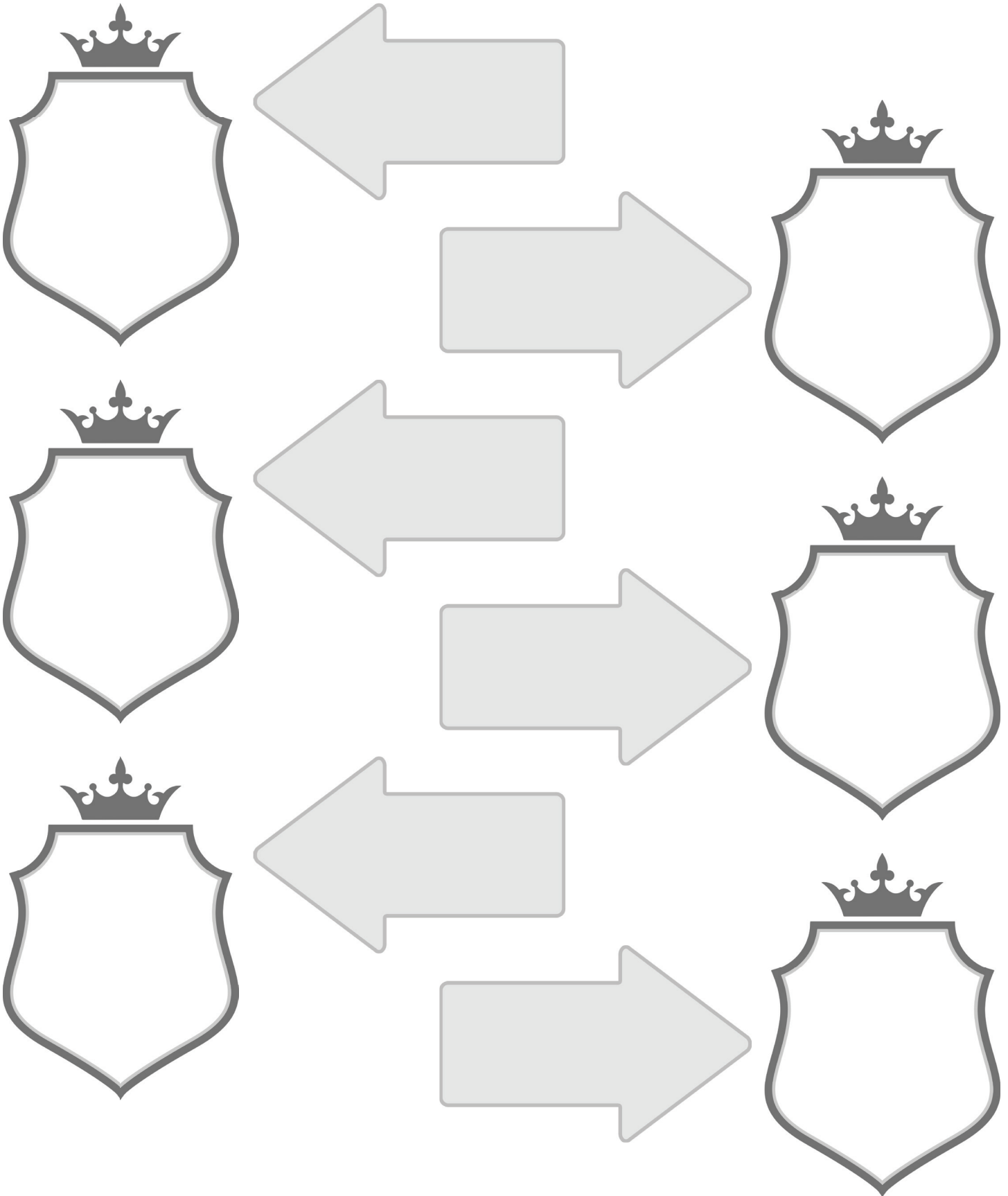
—R. A. Torrey

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Fill in the arrows with tactics of the enemy, and fill in the shields with our weapons.



The Enemy's Tactics and Our Weapons



Our Strategy—The Battle Is the Lord's

MAIN IDEAS

- We must depend on God to fight our spiritual battles, not on our own strength.
- Depending on God means admitting our weakness, and asking for His help.
- God will work for those who wait for Him.

KEY VERSE

From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.—Isaiah 64:4

SCRIPTURE

- 1) 2 Chronicles 20:1-30
- 2) Isaiah 64:4
- 3) Zechariah 4:6b

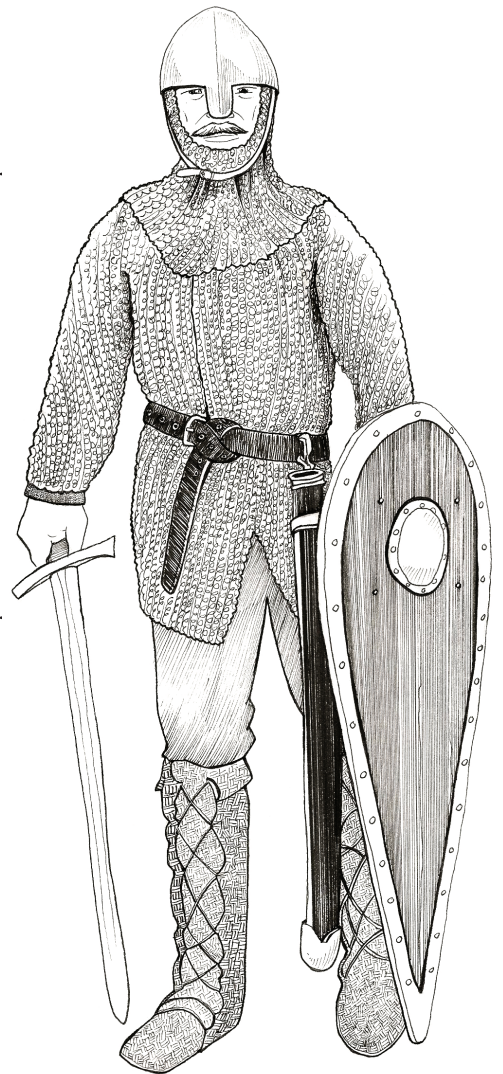
QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*To fight spiritual battles in God's strength
we must **STOP** reacting in our own strength,
PRAY, admitting our weakness
and asking for God's help,
and then **LISTEN** for God's leading
and act in God's strength.*

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Think of a battle situation you face or one that you faced this week. For each of our steps—STOP, PRAY, LISTEN—write what this would look like in the situation. What would stopping look like? Write a prayer you could pray at that time. Then write about a way God might ask you to respond to the situation. Remember that the most common way God speaks to us is through His Word.

Write God's promise from Isaiah 64:4 in the space at the bottom. Then share your notebook page with a partner or your small group.



Our Strategy—The Battle is the Lord's



STOP:



PRAY:



LISTEN:

Isaiah 64:4

Our Strategy—Stand Guard

MAIN IDEAS

- Christians should have a healthy fear of their own weakness and recognize their need to depend on God.
- Satan is an aggressive enemy.
- Christians need to be on guard against the enemy's attack.
- Satan will attack us where we are weak.

KEY VERSE

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.—1 Peter 5:8

SCRIPTURE

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Proverbs 4:23 | 4) 1 Corinthians 10:12 |
| 2) Mark 14:27-41, 50 | 5) 1 Peter 5:8 |
| 3) Romans 15:4 | |

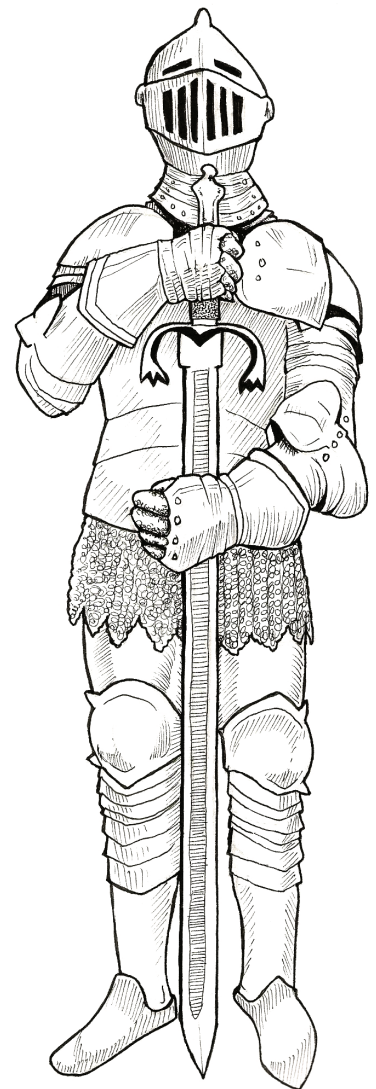
QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*There is nowhere this side
of heaven where we can
safely lay the reins
on the horse's neck.*

—C.S. Lewis

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Look up the verses and match each verse with a way that Satan attacks people. You may work alone, in pairs, or in your small group. Read the verses about “God’s Warning” and “God’s Work.” Thank Him for His warning and for His work. Ask Him to help you to STAND GUARD.



God's Warning: *Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour* (1 Peter 5:8).

John 8:44

Sends false teachers

Mark 4:15

Snatches up the Word of God

Genesis 3:3-4

Tempts us to sin

2 Corinthians 4:4

Blinds the minds of unbelievers

2 Corinthians 11:14

Accuses Christians before God

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Interferes in our work for God

1 Thessalonians 2:18

Plants doubts about God through lies

1 Thessalonians 3:5

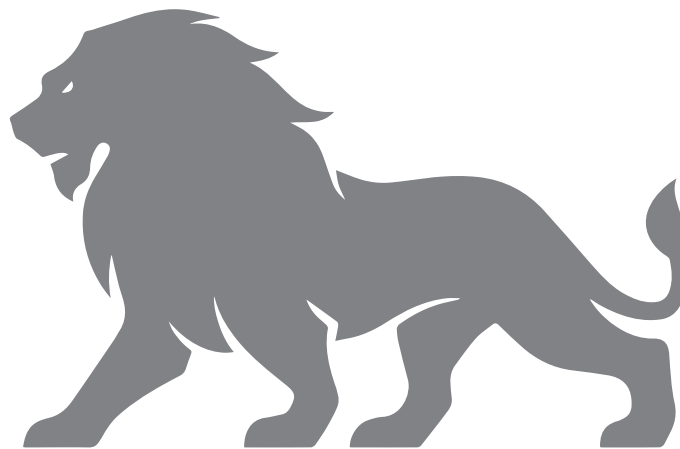
Persecutes Christians

Revelation 2:10

Lies and murders

Revelation 12:10

Disguises himself to look good



God's Work: The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8b).

Our Strategy—Be Prepared

MAIN IDEAS

- **Preparation for spiritual battles is essential.**
- **Knowing the Word of God is an important battle preparation.**
- **By memorizing the Word of God, we can have the Bible on the tips of our tongues and be in constant preparation.**

KEY VERSE

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.—Psalm 119:11

SCRIPTURE

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1) Deuteronomy 8:3 | 4) Proverbs 15:1 | 7) 2 Timothy 1:7 |
| 2) 2 Chronicles 16:9a | 5) Proverbs 16:24 | |
| 3) Psalm 119:11 | 6) Matthew 4:1-11 | |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*What if I offered you one thousand dollars
for every verse you could memorize in the next seven days?
Do you think your attitude toward Scripture memory
and your ability to memorize would improve?
Any financial reward would be minimal
when compared to the accumulating value
of the treasure of God's Word deposited within your mind.*

*—Don Whitney from *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life**

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Working with a partner, both of you read Psalm 119:11 aloud 10 times. (If you already know this verse, choose another verse and write it in your notebook.) Now, one of you try to say it 10 times with your partner helping you, if you need help. Then, swap roles with your partner. Next, write the verse five times—you can use different styles of writing each time if you wish. See if you have the verse memorized when you finish. Continue this practice at home with memory verses. If you do not need to write the verse, read the verse 10 times and then recite it 10 times. Be sure to review your verses so you don't forget them.

Psalm 119:11

Or, my own verse:

*I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.*

Five blank notebook pages arranged in two rows: three in the top row and two in the bottom row. Each page is light gray with a dark gray spine on the left and a white tab on the right. Each page contains four horizontal lines for writing.

The reason why many fail in battle is because they wait until the hour of battle. The reason why others succeed is because they have gained their victory on their knees long before the battle came. Anticipate your battles; fight them on your knees before temptation comes, and you will always have victory.

—R.A. Torrey

Our Strategy—Resist the Enemy

MAIN IDEAS

- Christians can resist Satan, or go along with him.
- Resisting Satan starts with godly inner desires; resisting happens first in the heart.
- Resistance must be immediate.
- Resistance includes fleeing from sin.
- When Christians resist Satan, he flees from them.

KEY VERSE

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

SCRIPTURE

1) Genesis 39:1-12

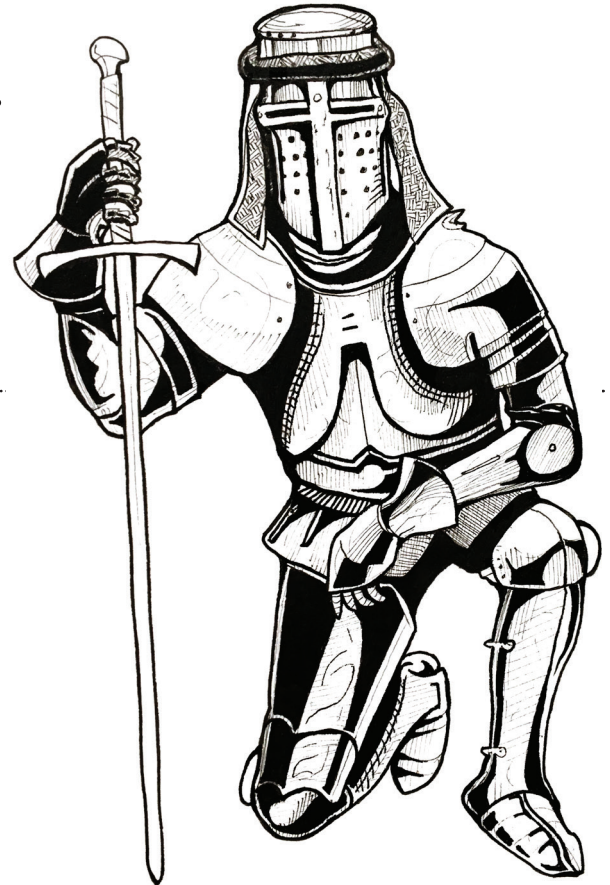
2) James 4:7

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

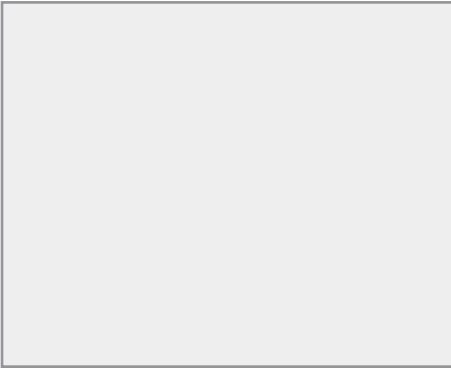
*Be careful of what you entertain.
Sin fascinates before it
assassinates.
—Author Unknown*

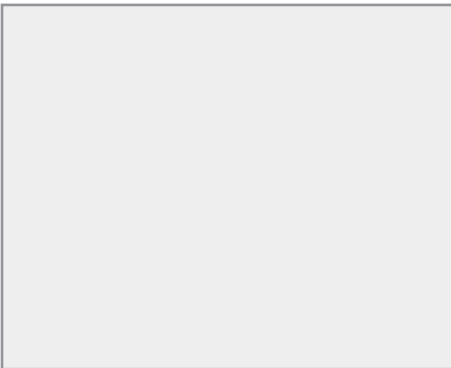
HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Label each box with the appropriate strategy to resist Satan from today's lesson. Think of a situation you may be in this week where you will need to submit to God and resist the devil. Then, next to each box, write what submitting to God and resisting the devil would look like. Share your responses with a partner or small group. Then, think about the quote in the box. What does this have to do with temptation and resisting the devil? Write your response in the box. You may choose to illustrate the quote if there is time.









Free cheese is always available in mousetraps.

Our Strategy—Renew Your Mind

MAIN IDEAS

- Christians are **IN** the world, but not **OF** the world.
- Because we are in the world, we are influenced by the world.
- The correct way of thinking is the way the Bible teaches us to think.
- We need to renew our minds.

KEY VERSE

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
—Romans 12:2

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Romans 12:2
- 2) 1 Corinthians 2:12
- 3) 2 Corinthians 10:3

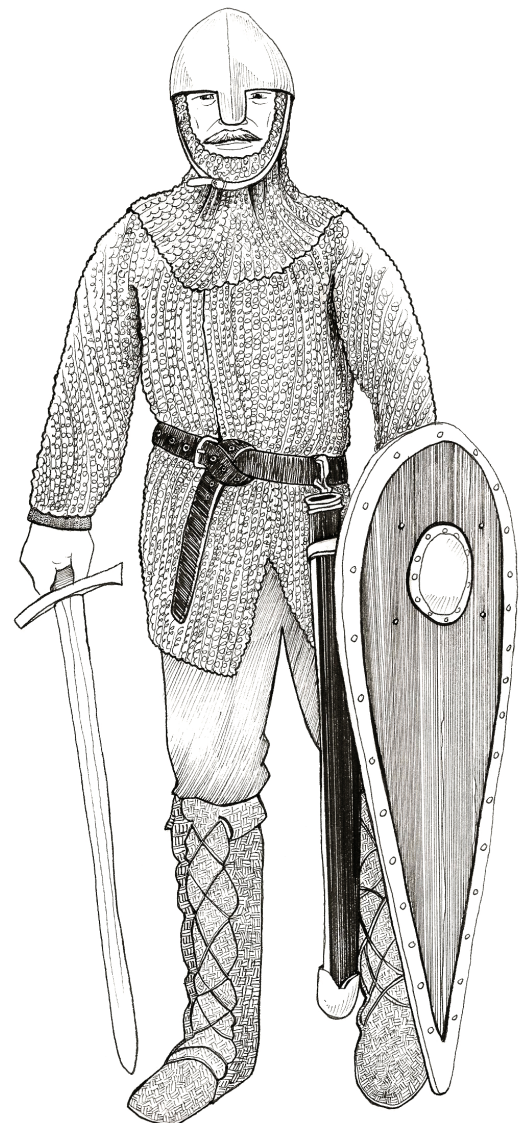
QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*Nothing else in this world
can renew our minds like the Bible,
which is: a light to guide us,
a rod to correct us,
a staff to lead us,
a mirror to reflect us,
a banquet to feed us, and
a rudder to steer us.*

—Elizabeth George

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

There are four examples of worldly thinking in the boxes. Look up the verses and record in each box what the Bible teaches.



Worldly Thinking:

Get back at people who treat you wrongly.

What the Bible Says:

1 Peter 3:9; Luke 6:28; Matthew 6:14-15

Worldly Thinking:

I am the most important person here.

What the Bible Says:

Romans 15:1-2; Galatians 6:2;
Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 2:3-4

Worldly Thinking:

Live for today! Get all the pleasure
and money you can get.

What the Bible Says:

Proverbs 22:1; Philippians 3:18-20;
Colossians 3:1-3; Matthew 5:19-20

Worldly Thinking:

I can do my own thing. No one should tell
me what I can and can't do.

What the Bible Says:

1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a; Galatians 2:20;
Ephesians 5:21

Our Strategy—Dwell on the Truth

MAIN IDEAS

- What we put into our minds will influence the way we think; the way we think will influence what we do.
- The Bible tells us to put good things into our minds.
- Dwelling on the truth includes choosing to believe the truth rather than the lies and attacks of the enemy.

KEY VERSE

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.—Philippians 4:8

SCRIPTURE

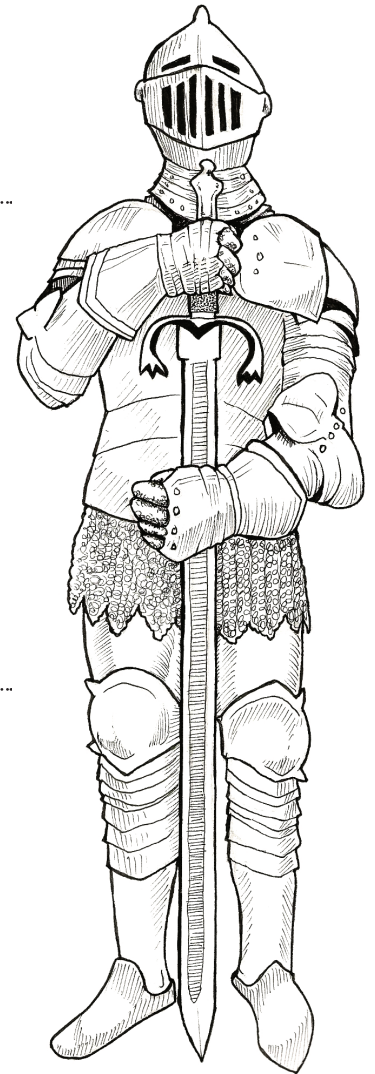
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1) 1 Kings 11:4 | 3) Philippians 4:8, 19 |
| 2) Nehemiah 4:11-14 | 4) Colossians 3:1-3 |

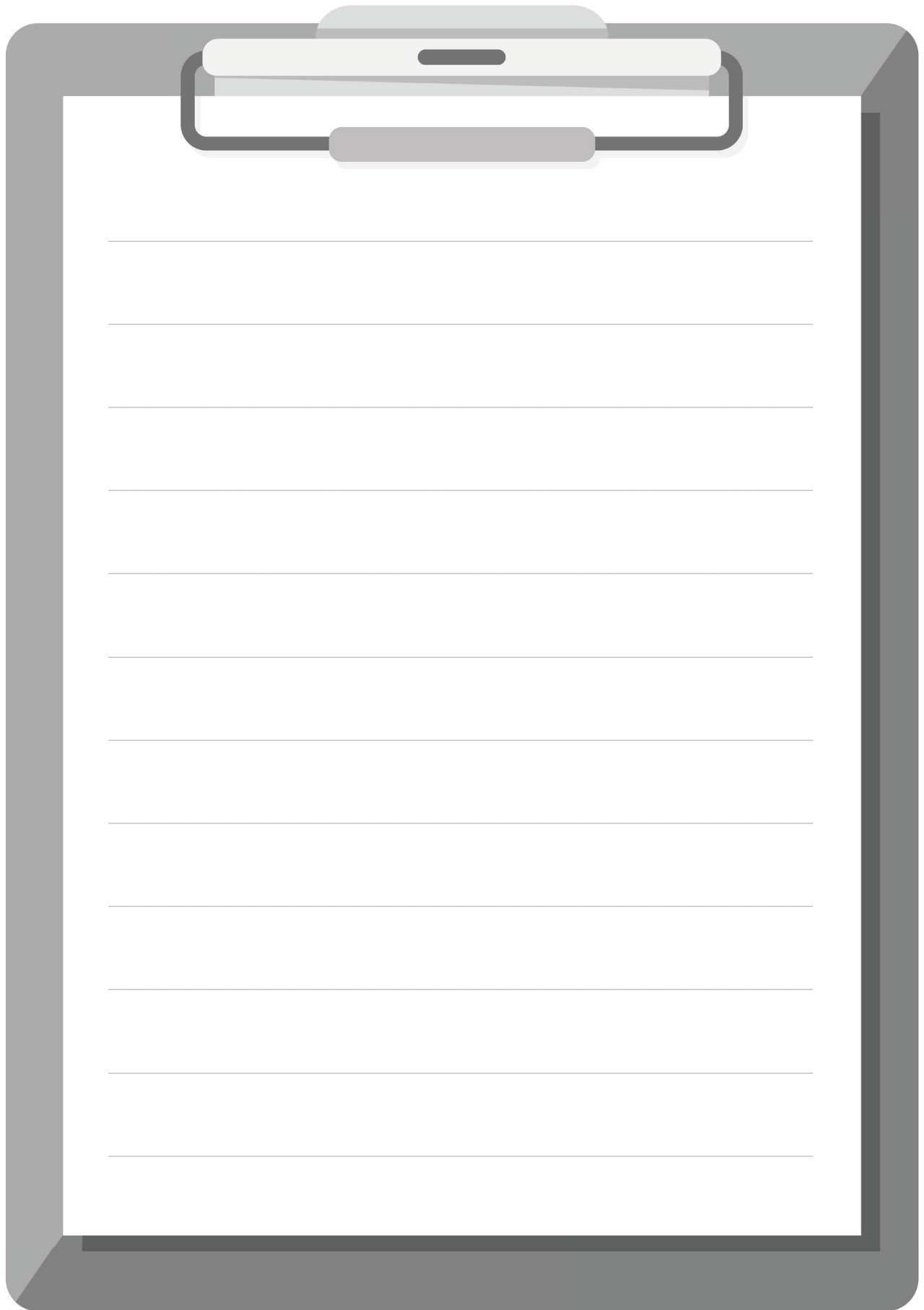
QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*Your mind is the garden,
Your thoughts are the seeds.
The harvest can either
Be flowers or weeds.
—William Wordsworth*

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Fill the clipboard with some of your favorite Bible verses.





Our Strategy—Do Not Compromise

MAIN IDEAS

- Sin that is not dealt with grows; “little” sins become “big” sins.
- Letting sin grow in our hearts and lives is compromising.
- Any turning away from God and His ways is always foolish and leads to serious consequences.

KEY VERSES

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.—Proverbs 4:23

Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil.—Proverbs 4:27

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Proverbs 4:20-27
- 2) Proverbs 24:30-31

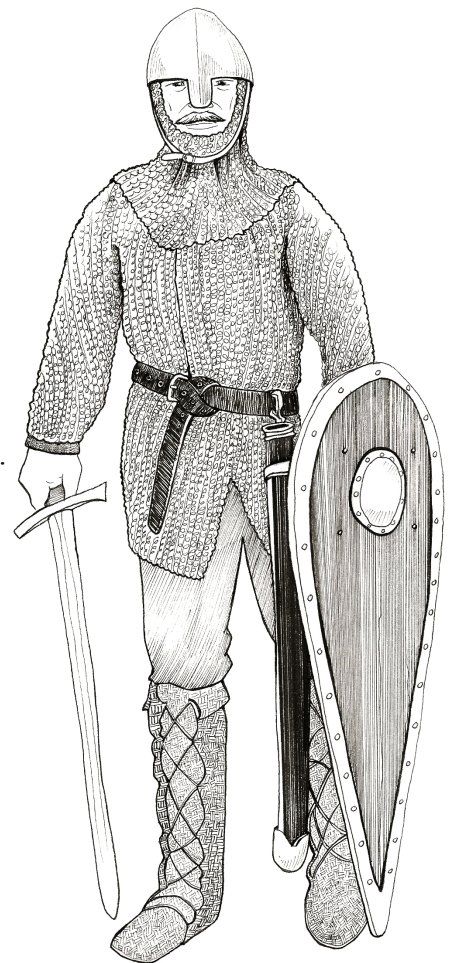
QUOTE TO CONSIDER

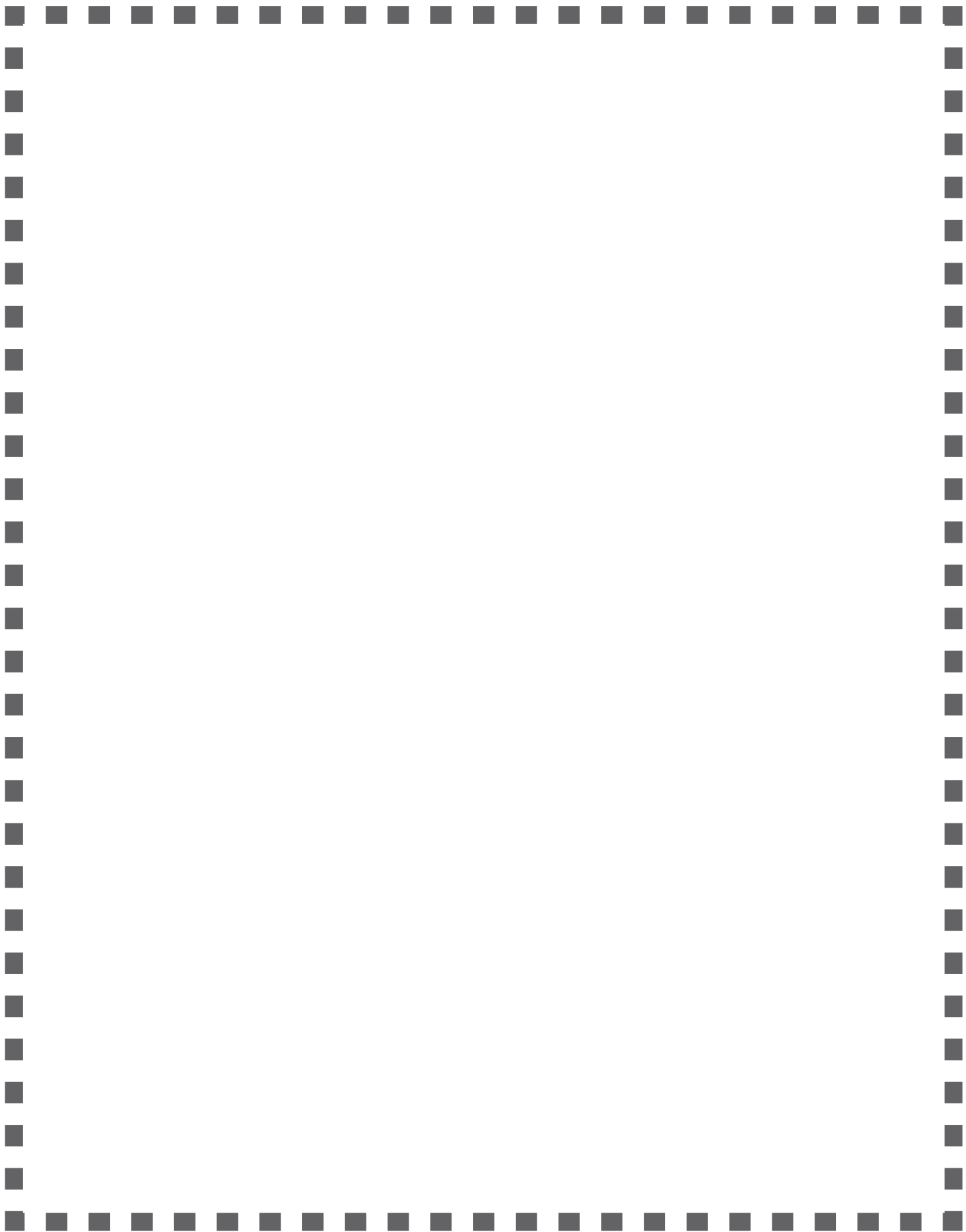
*It matters not if the world has heard
Or approves or understands...
The only applause we're meant to seek
Is that of nail-scarred hands.*

—B. J. Hoff

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

In the box on the next page, describe and/or draw the kind of garden you would like your heart to be. Then, write some steps you will take to care for your heart garden. Share your steps with your small group.





Our Strategy—Confession

MAIN IDEAS

- Because we are easily deceived, we must ask God to reveal hidden sin in our lives.
- Revealed sin should be confessed immediately.
- Confession and repentance include turning from sin.
- We should confess our sins daily.

KEY VERSES

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! ²⁴And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!—Psalm 139:23-24

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—1 John 1:9

SCRIPTURE

1) Psalm 26:2

3) Psalm 139:23-24

2) Psalm 51:9-10

4) 1 John 1:9

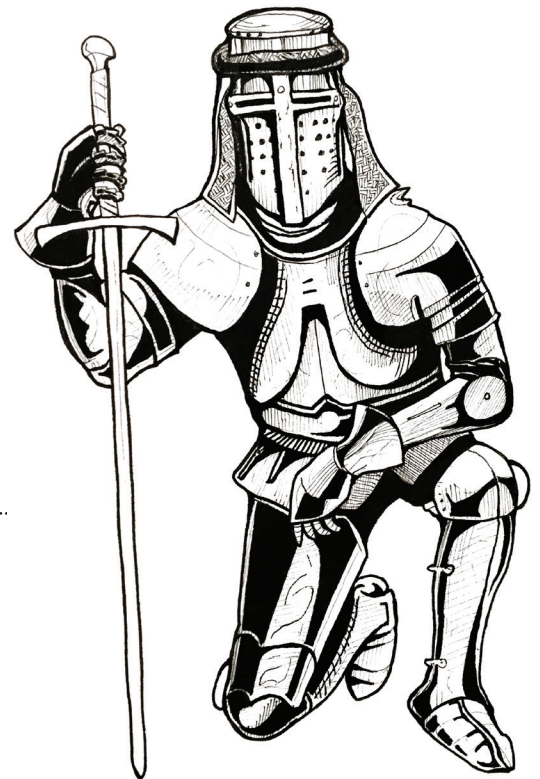
QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*Forgiveness is always free.
But that doesn't mean
that confession is always easy.
Sometimes it is hard. Incredibly hard.
It is painful to admit our sins
and entrust ourselves to God's care.*

—Erwin Lutzer

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Rewrite Psalm 32:1-5 in your own words. You may work by yourself or in pairs. Then share your version with your small group.



Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

*²Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

*³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.*

*⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.*

*⁵I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. — Psalm 32:1-5*

Our Strategy—Take Drastic Measures

MAIN IDEA

- Sin that is permitted to grow in the heart becomes deeply-rooted sin.
- Drastic measures are needed to deal with sin.
- God has given us a spiritual armor with which to fight the fight of faith.
- Jesus has set us free; He has not given us the yoke of slavery.

KEY VERSE

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.—Galatians 5:1

SCRIPTURE

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Proverbs 6:27-28 | 5) Galatians 5:1 |
| 2) Matthew 5:29-30 | 6) Ephesians 4:27 |
| 3) Romans 13:14 | 7) Ephesians 6:10-18 |
| 4) 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 | 8) 1 John 3:9 |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

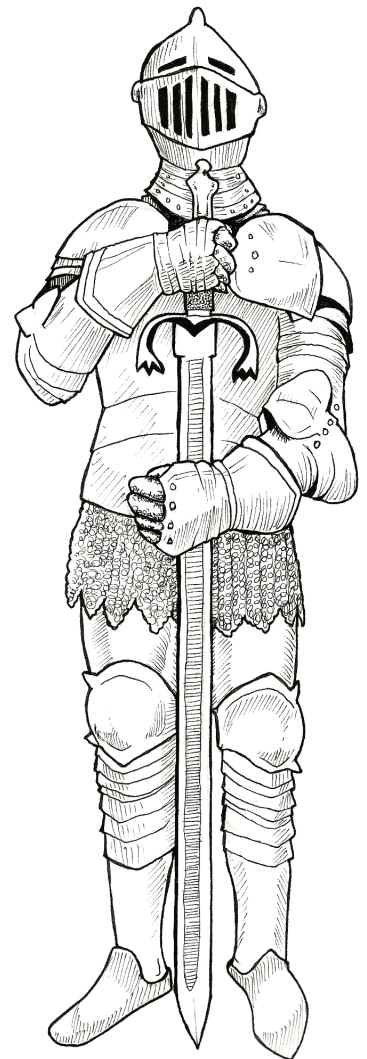
*The best way to fight against sin
is to fight it on our knees.*

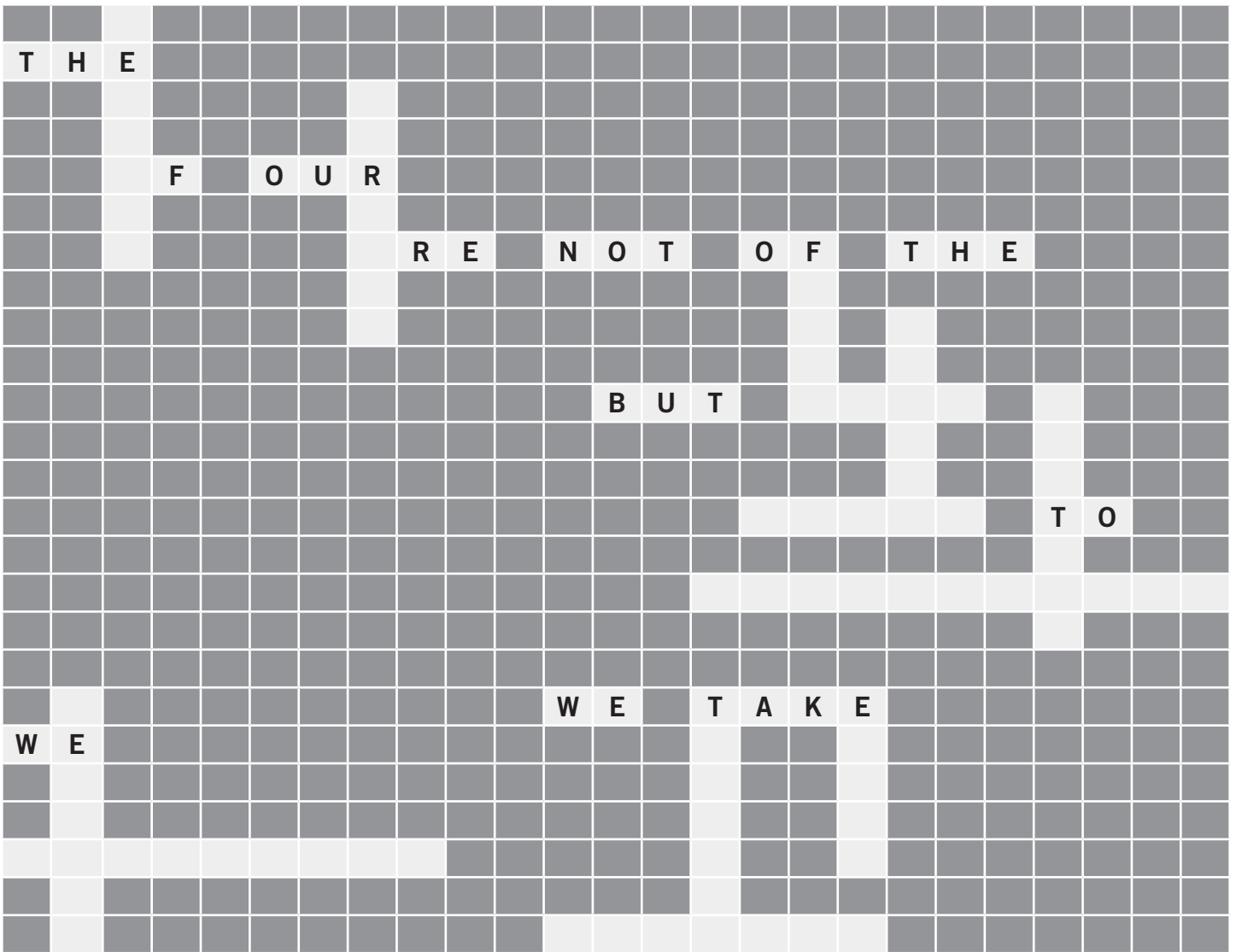
—Phillip Henry

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Fill in the squares in the grid on the next page with words describing the Christian's weapons and two methods of attack.

Hint: See 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.





Our determination and will are not sufficient to fight against sin. We must pray daily and ask God for help. When we are being tempted, we must recognize that we cannot fight the temptation on our own but call out to God for His strength and help to fight sin.

Victory in Jesus!

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus defeated Satan and his works.
- Jesus lives in His children, and His power to defeat Satan is ours.
- Satan tries to deceive us into thinking that victory is not ours.
- We need to take our thoughts captive to Jesus Christ and defeat Satan with the truth.

KEY VERSE

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
—1 Corinthians 15:57

SCRIPTURE

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1) 1 Corinthians 15:57 | 3) Hebrews 2:14 | 5) 1 John 4:4 |
| 2) 2 Corinthians 10:5 | 4) 1 John 3:8 | |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*“It is written.” Stand upon it,
and if the devil were fifty devils in one, he could not overcome you.
On the other hand, if you leave “It is written,”
Satan knows more about reasoning than you do.
He is far older, has studied mankind very thoroughly,
and knows all our weak points.
Therefore, the contest will be an unequal one.
Do not argue with him but wave in his face the banner of God’s Word.
Satan cannot endure the infallible truth,
for it is death to the falsehood of which he is the father.*
—Charles Haddon Spurgeon

HERE’S WHAT TO DO NEXT

In the word search, find some of the means God gives His children to have victory over sin and victory in the fight for faith. Then discuss the quote with your small group.

Prayer
Salvation
Confession
Repentance
Remembering
Examples

Dependence on God
Spiritual weapons
Bible
Preparation
Watchfulness
Renew the mind

Truth
Justification
Regeneration
Perseverance
Jesus' power

A V R E P E N T A N C E V Y I D O K M I
K N Y W S Q N O I V V D V J H E Y E V D
C M X U P I C E X C B Y I M I P O O M M
J U S T I F I C A T I O N T L E F O Q R
Y B T D R P R E P A R A T I O N E E X O
K B N K I R J S H P S X C L Q D I Z Z J
J R Y O T E Y A R E N E W T H E M I N D
E E W I U M E L O R O P G F U N X P W T
S G Z P A E X V S S I R M E H C W Z F S
U E O S L M A A J E W A B Q E E F A U C
S N H P W B M T J V H Y I P L O M T W G
P E C N E E P I T E T E B J U N V O Q F
O R Y V A R L O I R R R L W U G J F S Z
W A Q A P I E N M A U G E O Y O F L F S
E T S J O N S Q U N T D U N N D J Z L R
R I F D N G W A T C H F U L N E S S B Q
M O H L S L D P H E R A M Q X T A F R K
C N L C O N F E S S I O N O P R W K H T
D J L Y F Y B Q V L R E P A O T H T B N
Z J H D M W C C P F H T F J B L T N K L

When a serpent comes across your path speaking lies, you should run from it or kill it. You shouldn't sit around for a friendly chat.

—Ed Welch from *Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave*

Encourage One Another

MAIN IDEA

- **Encouraging each other is a means of persevering in faith; Christians need the encouragement of other believers.**
- **Use the Word to encourage each other.**
- **Encouragement should be accompanied with an attitude of humility and grace.**

KEY VERSES

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.—Hebrews 3:12-14

SCRIPTURE

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) 1 Corinthians 8:9 | 4) 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11, 14 |
| 2) Philippians 1:6 | 5) Hebrews 3:12-14 |
| 3) Colossians 3:16 | 6) Hebrews 10:24-25 |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*If in fellowship of service I seek to attach a friend to myself,
so that others are caused to feel unwanted;
if my friendships do not draw others deeper in,
but are ungenerous (i.e., to myself, for myself),
then I know nothing of Calvary love.*

—Amy Carmichael

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

With your small group, make a list of things you can do to encourage someone's faith. Then, write a list of things you could do that would harm someone's faith. Be specific. Finally, write one thing you will do this week to encourage someone's faith.

Things I Can Do to Encourage Someone's Faith

Things I Could Do
to Harm Someone's Faith

This Week I Will...



Strangers and Exiles

MAIN IDEA

- **This world is not our home; Christians are strangers and exiles here.**
- **All believers must understand that heaven is our home.**
- **This life is temporary; heaven is forever.**
- **To persevere in faith, Christians must forget this world and press on toward heaven.**

KEY VERSES

*But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 —Philippians 3:13b-14*

SCRIPTURE

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) John 15:19 | 4) 2 Timothy 4:7 | 7) Revelation 22:3-5 |
| 2) Philippians 3:13b-14 | 5) Hebrews 11:13-16, 33-37 | |
| 3) 2 Timothy 2:4 | 6) Revelation 21:1-7, 22-27 | |

QUOTE TO CONSIDER

*If I discover within myself a desire which no experience
 in this world can satisfy...the most probable explanation
 is that I was made for another world.*

—C.S. Lewis

HERE'S WHAT TO DO NEXT

Write your birthday on the timeline. Then mark some events in your life and the age you were when these events occurred. Mark things that have been important to you. These could be things you looked forward to, like your first two-wheel bike or the birth of a sibling. Mark events that have been hard as well, like the death of a pet. Share something from your timeline that you looked forward to and something that was hard. Next, make a list of what will be in heaven and what will not be in heaven. Then, read Paul's words in Philippians. What would it be like to have this as your goal? Write three things that would be different in your life if your focus was heaven, rather than earth. Finally, read and think about the quote.

Birth



What will not be in heaven:

What will be in heaven:

But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call in Christ Jesus. —Philippians 3:13b-14

1.

2.

3.

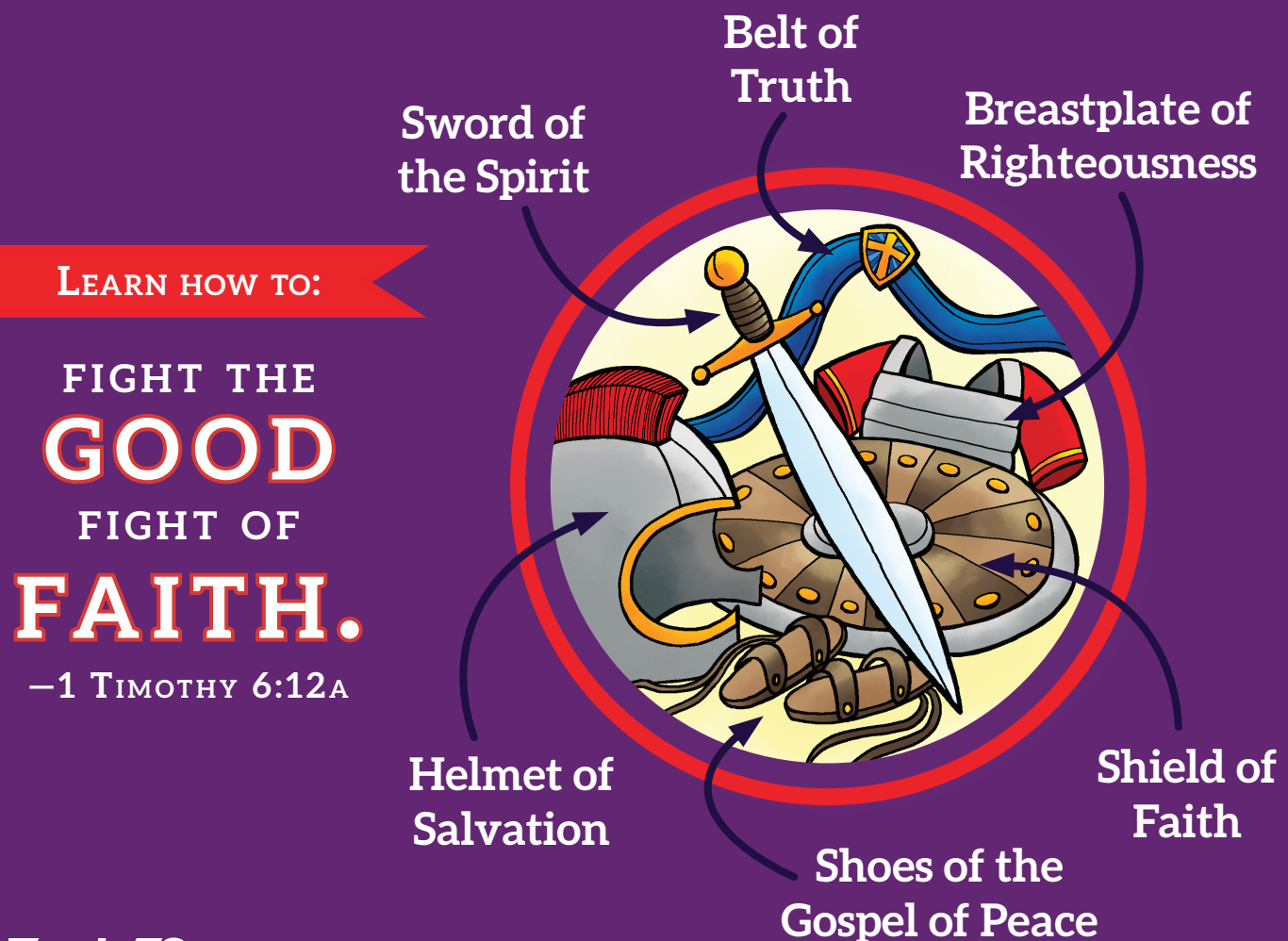
***Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth “thrown in;”
aim at Earth and you will get neither.***

—C. S. Lewis

Everyone is in a battle—either as an unbeliever fighting against God or as a believer fighting the fight of faith with God’s help.

The lessons present these two battles and explain God’s work of grace both in justification and in the perseverance of faith. Students will also learn about common battlegrounds of the heart, practical suggestions to fight these battles, and helpful strategies to guard their faith. At the end, they will be given a vision for eternal life in heaven, which makes perseverance worthwhile.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.—*Ephesians 6:10-12*



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