



ANSWERS: Unit 3: Christian Leadership

How to positively influence the attitudes and actions of others for Jesus Christ.

Lesson 15 Spiritual Warfare

Day One

War: Physical and Spiritual

Read Colossians 4:12 and answer questions 1–2:

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. Colossians 4:12

1. What is Epaphras' prayer for the members of the Colossian church?

That they may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

2. Have you prayed for others to stand firm in all the will of God? Yes No (Underline One)

Personal Answer

3. Commit to wrestle in prayer for one person this week. Pray in the spirit of Epaphras' prayer, *that this person may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured*. Make notes and share this prayer experience with your discipleship team.

Personal Answer

4. Read Revelation 20:10. In the future, what happens to the devil and his leaders?

And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. Revelation 20:10

They will be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur and will be tormented day and night forever.

5. What is the longest length of time that a physical war may affect a person's life?

A person's life span; perhaps 70-90 years if the country has been in war since the person was born. If not in war at birth, and war breaks out, then whatever years remain of a person's life.

6. How long will a person's life be affected by the spiritual war between God and Satan?

Eternity; forever

Read 2 Kings 6:15–17 and answer questions 7–9:

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked. ¹⁶"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 2 Kings 6:15–17

7. What did Elisha's servant see in the physical realm when he got up in the morning (v. 15)?

An army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city.

8. What did Elisha pray for his servant (v. 17a)?

That the Lord would open his eyes so he may see the spiritual realm.

9. What was the spiritual reality of the battle Elisha and his servant were facing (v. 17b)?

That God's spiritual forces (horses and chariots of fire) were protecting Elisha and his servant.

Read and meditate on Ephesians 6:12 and answer questions 10–13:

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. Ephesians 6:12

10. Do you struggle against another person who has hurt you, either physically, or emotionally?
Yes No (Underline One)

11. If your answer is yes, whom are you really fighting against?

Satan and his followers. The rulers, authorities, and powers of the dark world. The spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

12. How will knowing this truth change the way you view other people and circumstances?

Personal Answer

13. How will this change the way you view and pray about physical wars?

Personal Answer

—End Day One—

Day Two ***The Enemy***

Read Isaiah 14:12–15 and answer questions 14–9:

How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! ¹³You said in your heart, “I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. ¹⁴I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” ¹⁵But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit. Isaiah 14:12–15

14. What did Satan say in his heart (vv. 13–14)?

“I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. ¹⁴I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”

15. Does the triune God ever yield or give His glory or rule to anyone else (See Isaiah 42:8)?
Yes No (Underline One)

16. When Satan tried to make himself like God, what happened (v. 15)?

He was brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit.

Read Genesis 3:1 and answer questions 17–18:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

Genesis 3:1

17. How did the serpent change God’s command (See Genesis 2:16–17)?

The serpent changed God’s command of being free to eat from any tree but one, to not eating from any tree.

Bible verses in question 17:

And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” Genesis 2:16–17

18. Who disguised himself as a serpent (See Revelation 12:9)?

Satan

Bible verse in question 18:

The great dragon was hurled down-- that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Revelation 12:9

19. What do you think Satan’s hidden agenda was in talking with Eve (See Genesis 3:4–5 and John 10:10)?

Get Eve and Adam to disobey and rebel against God and His authority. Simply, he wanted them to sin.

Bible verses in question 19:

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
Genesis 3:4–5

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

20. What is Satan’s agenda (plan) regarding you (1 Peter 5:8)?

The same as it was with Adam and Eve—he wants me to disobey and rebel against God.

Bible verse in question 20:

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8

21. Read Colossians 1:15–16. How did all things, including a powerful being like Satan, come to exist?

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. Colossians 1:15–16

All created by Jesus and for Him.

22. Read Job 1:12. Who has power, authority, and control over Satan?

The LORD said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. Job 1:12

God. Satan is a created being, and his activities are limited by God.

Satan is a created being, and his activities are limited by God. He has been judged by God for his pride and rebellion but has not yet received his full punishment (1 Timothy 3:6; Revelation 20:10). Therefore, Satan continues to tempt people to follow his arrogant and conceited ways. God could just remove the devil and his evil cohorts (allies) from our lives—and He will. However, it will be in His plan and timing. In the meantime, God uses the devil's schemes to help us seek and depend on Him, become more like Jesus, strengthen us, keep us from becoming conceited, and test our hearts and motivations (Luke 22:40; Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 12:7–10; 1 Thessalonians 2:4).

23. Review the above paragraph. Share a time when God actually used the devil's schemes against you for your good.

Personal Answer

Read Ezekiel 22:30–31 and answer questions 24–28:

“I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.³¹ So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD.” Ezekiel 22:30–31 (The land is Israel circa 593 BC)

24. About six hundred years earlier, what prophet *stood in the gap* for the Israelites (Exodus 32:9–14)?

Moses

25. During Ezekiel’s day, was there anyone to *stand in the gap* for Israel (v. 30c)? Yes No (Underline One)

26. How did God follow through with His destruction on the wicked (See Ezekiel 33:21)?

Jerusalem fell to its enemies.

Bible verse in question 26:

In the twelfth year of our exile, in the tenth month on the fifth day, a man who had escaped from Jerusalem came to me and said, "The city has fallen!" Ezekiel 33:21

27. How do you think your country rates on God’s righteousness meter?

Personal Answer

28. What nation will you intercede for, and plead for God’s mercy?

Personal Answer

29. Read Job 38:1–4. Could a mere human understand the design and workings of the universe that God has created? Yes No (Underline One)

Then the LORD spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: ² “Who is this that obscures my plans with words without knowledge? ³ Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. ⁴ Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand.” Job 38:1–4

30. Action Step: Memorize Psalm 144:1–2: *Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. ² He is my loving God and my fortress, my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.*

—End Day Two—

Day Three

Spiritual Weapons and Evil Tactics

Read James 4:7 and answer questions 31–33:

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

31. What is one effective counterattack against the devil and his army of demons?

Submit ourselves to God and resist the devil's temptations.

32. What does it mean to resist the devil, and how do *you* personally resist evil?

To resist the devil means to oppose him and hold your ground against him. Do not give in to his deception and lies. Personal answer in resisting evil.

33. Review the *Seven Spiritual Warfare Weapons* above. Which weapon do you use the most and why?

Personal Answer

Enemy Tactic # 1: Lies, Lies, and more Lies

Read John 8:44 and answer questions 34–35:

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44

34. Jesus told some of the Pharisees and Jews that they belonged to their father and were carrying out his desire. Who does Jesus say their father is (v. 8:44a)?

The devil

35. Name two of Satan's characteristics (v. 8:44b).

Murderer and liar

36. How do you suppose Satan *was a murderer from the beginning* (Genesis 3:1–24)?

Satan was the cause of Adam and Eve's physical death (Hebrews 2:14–15). It did not come about immediately but as soon as they took the devil's bait and ate the forbidden fruit their bodies started to age. They were sent from the Garden of Eden into a now decaying world.

Bible verses in lesson and above:

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Hebrews 2:14–15

37. Read Acts 5:3. What does Peter tell Ananias about his heart?

Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?” Acts 5:3

That Satan has so filled his heart that he lied to the Holy Spirit.

38. How do *you* recognize Satan’s lies?

Personal answer but some ideas are to pray and to compare the matter with the truth of God's Word.

39. Once Satan’s tactic of lying is discovered, how do *you* counterattack?

Personal answer but here are some ways: Pray, quote appropriate Scripture that debunks the lie, focus on Jesus, be filled with the Holy Spirit, trust God, praise and worship, submit to God and resist the devil, confess sin, and live a life of discipline and holiness.

Enemy Tactic # 2: Stumbling Blocks

Read Matthew 16:23 and answer questions 40–41:

Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.” Matthew 16:23

40. How was Peter being a stumbling block to Jesus (Matthew 16:21–22)?

Peter did not have his eyes fixed upon God but on his earthly relationships and comforts. Peter did not want Jesus to go to Jerusalem to suffer and was acting as an obstacle to the salvation of the world.

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” Matthew 16:21–22

41. How has someone been a stumbling block to you?

Personal Answer

Enemy Tactic # 3: Unforgiveness

42. Read 2 Corinthians 2:10–11. What tactic of Satan is the apostle Paul warning against?

Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes. 2 Corinthians 2:10–11 (Outwit is to outsmart.)

Unforgiveness

Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart." Matthew 18:33-35

43. Read Matthew 18:33–35. How deeply are we supposed to forgive others?

'Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart." Matthew 18:33–35

Very deeply. Jesus tells us that we must forgive from our heart. We must really pardon our offenders from our spirit.

44. How has Himm's story of forgiveness encouraged you to be more forgiving?

Personal Answer

Enemy Tactic # 4: Takes away the Word

45. Read Mark 4:15. When the Word or gospel is preached or shared, what can Satan do?

Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. Mark 4:15

From the lesson: **Satan can take away the words of the gospel by keeping people from believing. He has the ability to blind some of the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the truth of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:4). In the same way, Satan can block gospel teaching to shallow hearers of the word, making them fruitless and eventually ruined. Some of the devil's schemes to take away the word—use distractions, worldly desires such as prosperity and comfort, fear of ridicule, and animosity toward the message or the messenger. We need to be watchful and pray against the wiles (tricks) of the devil and for the truth to be heard, accepted, and acted upon daily.**

—End Day Three—

Day Four

Wisdom, Courage, and Strength in Warfare

Action Steps

Read the following verses and list Satan's form of attack. We covered four of the devil's tactics: lying, stumbling blocks, unforgiveness, and taking away the Word. There are others.

46. Read 1 Chronicles 21:1. List tactic of the enemy: **Incite or provoke to sin. Caused David to become a stumbling block to Israel by disobeying God and taking a census.**

Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. 1 Chronicles 21:1 (Incite is to stir up or provoke action by somebody. A census is a count of the population.)

47. Read 2 Corinthians 11:13. List tactic of the enemy: **Lying and masquerading as an angel of light.**

For such people are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as apostles of Christ ¹⁴And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:13–14

48. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:18. List tactic of the enemy: **Stumbling block, stops certain actions and movements.**

For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. 1 Thessalonians 2:18

49. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:9–10. List tactic of the enemy: **Lying and doing all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs, and wonders and every sort of wickedness that deceives those who are perishing.**

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, ¹⁰and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 2 Thessalonians 2:9–10

Other tactics of Satan:

5. He masquerades in costumes of light and righteousness 2 Corinthians 11:13–15).
6. Satan does signs and wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9).
7. Satan tempts people to sin (Matthe 4:1–11; 2 Corinthians 11:3).
8. Satan causes some sickness and disease (Luke 13:16).
9. Satan is a murderer (John 8:44).
10. Satan fights against the plans of missionaries (1 Thessalonians 2:17–18).

50. How does understanding some of the enemy's ways and tactics prepare *you* for battle?

Personal answer but a few ideas are to recognize the foe and pray for help, not blame other people for the devil's tactics, and not blame God for the evil one's work.

Godly Tactic #: 1 Wisdom in Warfare

Read Proverbs 8:12–14 and answer questions 51–56:

“I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion.¹³ To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.¹⁴ Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have insight, I have power. Proverbs 8:12–14

51. When people have wisdom, what other three characteristics will they possess (v. 12)?

Prudence, knowledge, and discretion

52. Fill in the blanks. To _____ **fear** _____ the LORD is to _____ **hate** _____ evil (v. 13).

53. If Jesus had compromised on kingdom principles, what kind of disciples would He have attracted?

Weak, ineffective, and worldly disciples who would not have accomplished God's plan of salvation for the nations.

54. What are some ways that you can witness and befriend sinners without condoning or giving the impression that you approve of their evil behavior?

Personal answer but show love and concern for physical needs such as health, clothes, food, etc. Find common ground in hobbies, work, or other interests. Invite them into your environment and treat them well.

55. What kind of behaviors does God hate (v. 13b)?

God hates pride, arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

56. What are four other characteristics of wisdom and of a wise leader (v. 14)?

Counsel, sound judgment, insight and power

Godly Tactic #2: Courage in Warfare

Read Joshua 1:9 and answer questions 57–58:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

57. Does God *command* leaders to be strong and courageous? Yes No (Underline One)

58. What is the reason God gives for being strong and courageous?

For the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go

Read Isaiah 41:10 and answer questions 59–61:

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

59. Why does God say, “do not fear”?

For He is with us

60. Why does God say, “do not be dismayed (lose courage)”?

For He is our God

61. How does this knowledge of God being with you comfort and encourage you?

Personal Answer

Godly Tactic #3: Strength in Warfare

Read 2 Thessalonians 3:3 and Philippians 4:13 and answer question 62:

But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.
2 Thessalonians 3:3

I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

62. Why are you—or why are you not—a strong Christian leader?

Personal Answer

—End Day Four—

Day Five

Authority in Advancing the Kingdom

Godly Tactic #4: Authority

Read Luke 10:18–20 answer questions 63–66:

He replied, “I [Jesus] saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:18–20 (Snakes and scorpions represent evil spirits.)

63. Where does a believer’s authority come from (v. 19)?

Jesus. Authority is the right or ability to give orders. Jesus has all authority in heaven and earth (Matthew 28:18) and He is our source of authority; we have delegated authority.

64. How do you overcome the power of Satan and his evil spirit forces?

In Jesus I have the authority and power to win any battle against Satan and his crew of fallen angels and demons. Must exercise authority through faith (in lesson).

65. Are you satisfied with how you are exercising your authority in Christ Jesus?
Yes No Sometimes (Underline One)

Personal Answer

66. How will you improve in your exercise of authority (see Hebrews 11:32–38)?

Personal answer, but praying for more faith and courage.

Bible verses in question 66:

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. ³⁷ They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-- ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. Hebrews 11:32–38

Action Step

Meditate on Ephesians 6:10–18 and answer questions 67–70:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For 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. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:10–18 (Arrows of the evil one are temptations that can cause spiritual injury or spiritual death.)

67. The pieces of armor are described above in terms of truth, righteousness, peace, salvation, and the word of God. What *Person* is described in these terms?

Jesus Christ, our Lord

68. How will you put on the armor of Christ (see also Romans 13:8–14)?

Personal Answer

Bible verses in question 68:

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. ¹¹And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. Roman 13:8–14

Remember: "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." 1 John 4:4

69. How do you extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one (v. 16)?

Faith

70. Pray you and your fellow disciples are suited-up for battle. I have prayed Yes No (Underline One)

Personal Prayer

—End Answers Day Five and Lesson 15—

Next—Lesson 16: The Tender Heart of a Leader, Unit 3: Christian Leadership

Rev 4/26/2024