

Fight the Good Fight

A Study for Children on Persevering in Faith



Fight the Good Fight is a Midweek Bible study for children on persevering in faith. The curriculum communicates that 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. The study also introduces common battlegrounds of the heart, provides practical suggestions on how to fight these battles, and gives helpful strategies to guard one’s faith. The study ends by presenting the vision of an eternal life in heaven that makes our perseverance worthwhile. Students are encouraged to memorize selected Fighter Verses™ in conjunction with this study.

LESSON 1: THE HEART CONDITION

Various Passages

Every person is born with a sin nature. The curriculum begins by showing students that the heart involves a person’s whole being. Students will quickly realize that there is a problem with the condition of our hearts because everyone was born with a sinful heart. The really bad news is that our sinful hearts make us unacceptable to God and deserving of His wrath. However, there is also good news...

Key Verse: Genesis 6:5

LESSON 2: WHERE IS THE BATTLE?

A Tree and Its Fruit (Luke 6:43-45); Various Passages

The battle for faith is in the heart. The lesson shows that actions flow from the heart. Since everyone is born with a sinful heart, we need a new heart, which only God can give. Everyone is in a spiritual battle—either a battle against God, or fighting the fight of faith with God’s help. The battle for faith takes place in the heart.

Key Verse: James 4:1

LESSON 3: SAVED BY GRACE

Various Passages; The Gospel Call through Stephen (Acts 6-8:1)

The grace of God saves man from the wrath of God. This lesson reveals the solution for the problem of man’s sinful heart. Students learn that because of his stubborn and unrepentant heart, man deserves the wrath of God. They will see that it is the grace of God that saves man from the wrath of God, and this salvation is by grace through faith alone. This lesson also highlights God’s gospel call and the two responses of heeding it or rejecting it, and what it means to be chosen by God.

Key Verses: Ephesians 2:8-9

LESSON 4: GOD CHANGES HEARTS—REGENERATION

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5); Various Passages

Only God can change the heart. The previous lesson addressed the need for a new and good heart. This lesson shows that only God can change the heart—man is powerless to change his own heart. Students also learn that God knows the heart of man. This lesson describes the regenerated “heart of flesh” that no longer fights against God.

Key Verse: Ezekiel 11:19

LESSON 5: CONVERSION—FAITH AND REPENTANCE*Various Passages*

Conversion involves faith and repentance. When God gives someone a new heart, the person turns toward Christ and away from sin. This lesson explains that conversion involves both faith and repentance. In both of these acts the mind, heart, and will are employed. Students are then encouraged to examine their hearts to see if they are in the faith.

Key Verse: Hebrews 11:6

LESSON 6: JUSTIFICATION AND ADOPTION*Various Passages*

God declares righteous all those who have faith in Jesus. This lesson explains the doctrine of justification, teaching that a person is justified before God through faith in Jesus alone. Students will learn that those who have been justified are adopted into God's family and receive the promise of eternal life rather than eternal punishment. The danger of relying on good works to be right before God is emphasized.

Key Verse: Romans 8:1

LESSON 7: THE BATTLE ISN'T OVER—SANCTIFICATION*Various Passages*

The battle for faith and against sin does not end at salvation. In this lesson, students see that Christians are in a spiritual battle and God is fighting the battle with them. He is working to keep His children persevering in faith. The lesson teaches students that God will complete His work in His children. He is true to His promise to complete His work because His reputation is at stake.

Key Verses: Philippians 2:12b-13

LESSON 8: BE A FIGHTER!*Various Passages*

We must fight if we are to win the battle. This lesson continues the discussion on the spiritual battle by challenging students to fight that battle. Students learn that all of life is spiritual, and every battle we face is actually a spiritual battle. Students study three Bible stories—the 12 spies sent to investigate Canaan, David facing Goliath, and Peter and John before the Sanhedrin—to identify the spiritual battles beneath the outward battle.

Key Verse: 1 Timothy 6:12a

LESSON 9: BATTLEGROUND—UNBELIEF*Psalms 77-78*

Remembering the mighty acts of God helps us battle unbelief. This is the first in a series of lessons on specific battlegrounds of the heart, this lesson focusing on the battleground of unbelief. Students examine two psalms to see that God is faithful in spite of our faithlessness, and that the best way to fight unbelief is by remembering the goodness, faithfulness, and mighty acts of God.

Key Verse: Mark 9:24b

LESSON 10: BATTLEGROUND—PRIDE*Uzziah's Pride and Punishment (2 Chronicles 26)*

Pride unchecked leads to destruction. The next battleground introduced is that of pride. Students see that pride exhibits itself in different ways and will lead to destruction, if left unchecked. Using the acronym "PRIDE," students will learn five characteristics of pride. They will also discuss strategies to fight against pride and encourage humility in their hearts.

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:5b

LESSON 11: BATTLEGROUND—REBELLION*Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (Matthew 26); Simon Submits to Jesus (Luke 5)*

Rebellion is resisting God and what is right. In this lesson, students learn about the battleground of rebellion. Noting the example of Jesus' submission to His Father and Simon's submission to Jesus, students are encouraged to submit to God and His ways. In addition, the lesson teaches that we must fight rebellion when it is small so it does not grow and consume our hearts.

Key Verse: Psalm 40:8

LESSON 12: BATTLEGROUND—SPIRIT OF FEAR *Peter Walks on Water (Matthew 14); The Apostles Before the Sanhedrin (Acts 5)*

We can fight against a spirit of fear. This lesson teaches that good fear (fear of the right things) comes from God, but a spirit of fear comes from a sinful heart. Students learn that Christians do not have to accept a spirit of fear—Christians can fight against it. A spirit of fear is defeated by focusing on God rather than on fear, and by having a greater fear of God than fear of men or other things.

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7

LESSON 13: BATTLEGROUND—SELF*The Lord Answers Job (Job 38-40)*

Self is a battleground of the heart. This lesson teaches three things that can help fight the battle of self: 1) acknowledging that God is supreme; 2) understanding that our lives are not our own because we have been bought with a price; and 3) understanding that we have been created for God's glory.

Key Verse: Luke 9:23b

LESSON 14: EXPECT OBSTACLES...AND NEVER GIVE UP!*Opposition to Nehemiah (Nehemiah 4-6)*

There is a reward waiting for those who persevere and finish the fight of faith. This lesson encourages students to never give up in the fight of faith, but to persevere to the end. Students examine the obstacles facing Nehemiah as he strove to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and how he persevered despite adversity. Nehemiah and Paul are given as examples to encourage us to persevere and receive an eternal reward.

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 4:7

LESSON 15: THE ENEMY'S TACTICS AND OUR WEAPONS—PART 1*Opposition to Nehemiah (Nehemiah 4)*

Spiritual battles are fought with spiritual weapons. This is the first in a two-part lesson showing how to fight the fight of faith. Students learn that knowing Satan's tactics helps Christians to defeat him. They are reminded that all of life is spiritual and that Satan is persistent. The study of Nehemiah's response to adversity continues from the previous lesson to illustrate the themes of the lesson.

Key Verses: Ephesians 6:10-12

LESSON 16: THE ENEMY'S TACTICS AND OUR WEAPONS—PART 2*Opposition to Nehemiah (Nehemiah 4-6)*

Spiritual battles are fought with spiritual weapons. The study of Nehemiah continues as it emphasizes that Satan is a liar and a deceiver. Students continue to investigate strategies to battle against the enemy's tactics.

Key Verses: 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

LESSON 17: OUR STRATEGY—THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S*Jehoshaphat's Prayer (2 Chronicles 20)*

God will work for those who wait on Him. This is the first in a series of lessons on strategies for fighting the fight of faith. This particular lesson teaches students that we must depend on God to fight our spiritual battles, not on our own strength. The lesson demonstrates that depending on God means admitting our weakness, and asking for His help.

Key Verse: Isaiah 64:4

LESSON 18: OUR STRATEGY—STAND GUARD*The Disciples Abandon Jesus (Mark 14)*

Christians need to be on guard against the enemy's attack. The lesson teaches that Christians should have a healthy fear of their own weakness, and therefore recognize their need to depend on God. Students are warned that Satan is an aggressive enemy and will attack our weaknesses, so it is important that we are on guard against him.

Key Verse: 1 Peter 5:8

LESSON 19: OUR STRATEGY—BE PREPARED*Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4)*

Preparation for spiritual battles is essential. This lesson cautions students by reminding them that we must prepare for spiritual battles, and that knowing the Word of God is an important preparation for battle. In the example set by Jesus, students learn that when we memorize the Word of God we can have the Bible on the tips of our tongues to fend off the attacks of the evil one.

Key Verse: Psalm 119:11

LESSON 20: OUR STRATEGY—RESIST THE ENEMY*Joseph and Potiphar's Wife (Genesis 39)*

When Christians resist Satan, he flees from them. The next strategy presented is resisting the enemy. Students learn that Christians can resist Satan or go along with him, showing that resisting Satan starts with godly inner desires. The lesson also teaches that resistance must be immediate and includes fleeing from sin.

Key Verse: James 4:7

LESSON 21: OUR STRATEGY—RENEW YOUR MIND*Various Passages*

Christians are IN the world but not OF the world. In this lesson, students learn what that means. Because students are in the world, they are influenced by the world. Students learn that the correct way of thinking is the way the Bible teaches us to think, which includes renewing our minds.

Key Verse: Romans 12:2

LESSON 22: OUR STRATEGY—DWELL ON THE TRUTH*Various Passages*

What we put into our minds will influence the way we think. The aim of this lesson is to teach that what we put into our minds will influence the way we think, and 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: Philippians 4:8

LESSON 23: OUR STRATEGY—DO NOT COMPROMISE*A Father's Wise Instruction (Proverbs 4)*

Any compromise with sin is dangerous and brings serious consequences. This lesson shows that sin that is not dealt with grows, and "little" sins become "big" sins. Students see that letting sin grow in their hearts is a perilous compromise as they give up what is best (God and His good ways) for something that is inferior (sin). As students study the book of Proverbs they see the dangerous consequences that come from such compromise.

Key Verses: Proverbs 4:23, 27

LESSON 24: OUR STRATEGY—CONFESSION*Various Passages*

We should confess our sins daily. In this lesson, students learn that because we are easily deceived, we must ask God to reveal hidden sin in our lives. Revealed sin should be confessed immediately. The lesson teaches that confession and repentance include turning away from sin.

Key Verses: Psalm 139:23-24; 1 John 1:9

LESSON 25: OUR STRATEGY—TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES*Various Passages; Ephesians 6:10-18*

Strongholds are destroyed with the power of God. This lesson begins with a reminder that sin permitted to grow in the heart becomes deep-rooted sin. Students are challenged to take drastic measures with sin in their lives and to use the spiritual armor God has given His children. They are reminded that Jesus has set them free from slavery to sin.

Key Verse: Galatians 5:1

LESSON 26: VICTORY IN JESUS!*Various Passages*

Jesus defeated Satan and his works. As the curriculum draws to a close, students see that Jesus lives in His children and, if we are His children, His power to defeat Satan is ours. The lesson warns that Satan tries to deceive us by making us think that we cannot be victorious over sin, but the Bible teaches that we can take our thoughts captive to Jesus Christ and defeat Satan with the truth.

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:57

LESSON 27: ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER*Various Passages*

Christians need encouragement from each other to persevere in faith. Students are shown the importance of Christian fellowship and encouraging each other. The tone of encouraging and confronting each other with sin should be one of humility and grace. Knowing the Word is a great means of not only strengthening our own faith, but also of encouraging one another.

Key Verses: Hebrews 3:12-14

LESSON 28: STRANGERS AND EXILES*Description of Heaven (Revelation 21-22)*

Heaven is our home. The last lesson reminds students that, for Christians, this world is not our home. Christians are aliens and strangers here. Students will be encouraged as they remember that this life is temporary and heaven is forever. The study closes by teaching that to persevere in faith, Christians must forget this world and press on toward heaven.

Key Verses: Philippians 3:13b-14

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