



## Fight the Good Fight

### Scope & Sequence

*Fight the Good Fight* is a midweek study for children on persevering in the faith. The curriculum communicates to children 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. Classrooms can also choose to have students read the book *The War for Mansoul* as an optional activity.

#### Lesson 1: The Heart Condition

Various Passages

##### Man’s heart is evil.

- ▶ 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 lesson emphasizes that we can’t prevent our hearts from becoming evil and sinful because they started out that way.

Memory Verse: Genesis 6:5

#### Lesson 2: Saved by Grace

Various Passages

##### The graces of God saves man from the wrath of God.

- ▶ This lesson reveals the solution for the problem of man’s sinful heart. In this lesson, students will 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. The lesson also calls each student to examine his or her own heart.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8-9

#### Lesson 3: Where is the Battle?

A Tree and its Fruit (Luke 6)

##### The battle for faith is in the heart.

- ▶ The lesson aims to teach children that the battle to believe in God and to trust Him in all things is a battle of the heart, as is the battle to love God and love the truth, to read the Bible, and to do good. In order to genuinely do good we need a good and right heart.

Memory Verse: James 4:1

#### Lesson 4: God Changes Hearts

Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)

##### Only God can change the heart.

- ▶ The previous lesson addressed the need for a new and good heart. This lesson shows students that only God can change the heart—man is powerless to change his own heart. Children also learn that God knows the heart of man. This lesson compares and contrasts “hearts of stone” with “hearts of flesh.”

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 11:19

## Lesson 5: Justification

Various Passages

### God declares righteous all those who have faith in Jesus.

- ▶ This lesson explains the doctrine of justification to students. The lesson teaches that a person is justified before God through faith in Jesus alone. Students will learn that those who have been justified will have eternal life and will not receive punishment from God. Emphasis is given on the danger of relying on good works to be right before God.

Memory Verse: Romans 8:1

## Lesson 6: The Battle Isn't Over

Various Passages

### The battle for faith and against sin does not end at salvation.

- ▶ In this lesson, students will 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 us. He is true to His promise to complete His work in us because His reputation is at stake.

Memory Verse: Philippians 2:12b-13

## Lesson 7: 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. The lesson shows students that all of life is spiritual and that every battle we face is a spiritual battle. In the Bible, students will study three stories (the 12 Spies sent to investigate Canaan, David facing Goliath, and Peter and John before the Sanhedrin) to demonstrate that we must fight if we are to win the battle.

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 6:12a

## Lesson 8: Battlegrounds: Unbelief

Psalms of Asaph (Psalm 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. Unbelief is the battleground in focus for Lesson 8. In the lesson students will 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.

Memory Verse: Mark 9:24b

## Lesson 9: Battlegrounds: Pride

Uzziah's Pride and Punishment (2 Chronicles 26)

### Pride unchecked leads to destruction.

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

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:5b

**Lesson 10: Battlegrounds: Rebellion**

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (Matthew 26)

**Rebellion is resisting God and what is right.**

Jesus Calls the Disciples (Luke 5)

- ▶ In this lesson students learn about the battleground of rebellion. Jesus submitted to the Father in all things and as our example, we can learn from Him. The disciples also submitted to Christ. In addition the lesson teaches that we must fight rebellion when it is small so that it does not grow and consume our hearts.

Memory Verse: Psalm 40:8

**Lesson 11: Battlegrounds: Spirit of Fear**

Peter Walks on Water (Matthew 14)

**We can fight against a spirit of fear.**

The Apostles Before the Sanhedrin (Acts 5)

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

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 1:7

**Lesson 12: Battlegrounds: Self**

The Lord Answers Job (Job 38-40)

**Self is a battleground of the heart.**

- ▶ Students are introduced to the battleground of self in Lesson 12. The 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.

Memory Verse: Luke 9:23b

**Lesson 13: 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 will examine the obstacles facing Nehemiah as he strove to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and how he persevered despite adversity.

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 4:7

**Lesson 14: 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 that shows students how to fight the fight of faith. Children will first learn that knowing Satan's tactics helps Christians to defeat him. Students will be 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.

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:10-12

**Lesson 15: The Enemy's Tactics and Our Weapons (Part 2)**

Opposition to Nehemiah (Nehemiah 4-6)

**Spiritual battles are fought with spiritual.**

- ▶ The study of Nehemiah continues as it emphasizes that Satan is a liar and a deceiver. Students will continue to investigate strategies to battle against the enemy's tactics.

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

**Lesson 16: 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.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 64:4

**Lesson 17: Our Strategy: Stand Guard**

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane (Mark 14)

**Christians need to be on guard against the enemy's attack.**

- ▶ The lesson teaches that Christians should have a healthy fear of our own weakness, and therefore recognize our 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.

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:8

**Lesson 18: 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. The lesson shows students 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.

Memory Verse: Psalm 119:11

**Lesson 19: Our Strategy: Resist the Enemy**

Joseph and Potiphar's Wife (Genesis 39)

**When Christians resist Satan, he flees from them.**

- ▶ The next strategy presented in the curriculum is resisting the enemy. Students will learn that Christians can resist Satan or go along with him. The lesson shows students that resisting Satan starts with godly inner desires which happens first in the heart. The lesson also teaches that resistance must be immediate and sometimes includes fleeing from sin.

Memory Verse: James 4:7

**Lesson 20: Our Strategy: Renew Your Mind**

Various Passages

**Christians are IN the world but not OF the world.**

- ▶ In this lesson, students will learn what it means to be in the world but not of it. Because students are in the world, they are influenced by the world. Children will learn that the correct way of thinking is the way the Bible teaches us to think which includes renewing our minds.

Memory Verse: Romans 12:2

**Lesson 21: 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 students that what we put into our minds will influence the way we think, and the way we think will influence what we do. Children will learn that the Bible tells us to put good things into our minds, and that dwelling on the truth includes choosing to believe the truth rather than the lies and attacks of the enemy.

Memory Verse: Philippians 4:8

**Lesson 22: Our Strategy: Do Not Compromise**

A Father's Wise Instruction (Proverbs 4)

**We should not compromise God and His goodness for sin.**

- ▶ This lesson shows children that sin that is not dealt with grows and “little” sins become “big” sins. Students will see that letting sin grow in their hearts is a perilous compromise as they give up what is best (God) for something that is inferior (sin). As students study the book of Proverbs they will see the dangerous consequences that come from such compromise.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:23, 27

**Lesson 23: Our Strategy: Confession**

Various Passages

**We should confess our sins daily.**

- ▶ In this lesson, children will 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.

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

**Lesson 24: Our Strategy: Demolish Strongholds**

The Fall of Jericho (Joshua 6)

**Strongholds are destroyed with the power of God.**

- ▶ This lesson begins by reminding children that if sin is permitted to grow in the heart it becomes a stronghold. The lesson challenges students to denounce strongholds in their lives and shows them that drastic measures are often needed to destroy strongholds. The lesson encourages children by reminding them that Jesus has set them free from slavery to sin.

Memory Verse: Galatians 5:1

**Lesson 25: Victory in Jesus!**

Various Passages

**Jesus defeated Satan and his works.**

- ▶ As the curriculum draws to a close, students will see that Jesus lives in His children and 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.

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:57

**Lesson 26: Aliens and Strangers.**

Description of Heaven (Revelation 21-22)

**Heaven is our home.**

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

Memory Verse: Philippians 3:13b-14