The Battle Plan

Teens

Level 4 Lesson 25

* **Introduction**

We tend to blame other people when things don’t go our way. Sometimes, we can just not be feeling great, and then we start being grumpy and rude to our family. Can I get a witness? We may say things that we don’t mean, hurt people’s feelings, and even embarrass ourselves over small irritants. The battle is real. Fortunately, the Bible has many scriptures to help us overcome.

* **Lesson**

*Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

*Eph 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the*

 *wiles of the devil.*

*Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities,*

*against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual*

*wickedness in high places.*

This battle is not a child’s game. This is a serious life or death war we are in. Our souls are at stake. But not only our souls, but we also have our peace on this earth at stake. Our battle is against things we can’t even see. Of course, our flesh is not on our side. But, these principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places, whoa, what are we to do about these? These things are not people. They may use people, but they are not people.

*Eph 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able*

 *to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

Armour is protection against an enemy. The whole armour of God must be powerful, but it seems as though, according to scripture, this armour is all we need in this battle to be victorious.

*Eph 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on*

*the breastplate of righteousness;*

*Eph 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

*Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench*

*all the fiery darts of the wicked.*

*Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the*

 *word of God:*

*Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and*

*watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

Truth, righteousness, ready with the Gospel, faith, salvation, the Word along with prayer, supplication, and watchings is the answer for victory.

If we needed a job, we might go to a company that has a dress code, maybe a uniform. If we are hired, we are expected to go by the company rules, regulations, and policies. When we join this church (the Body of Christ), we must, likewise, follow policy. The regulations don’t say that it might be nice if you put this armour on. On the contrary, the book says to “Put on…” Each part of our uniform is valuable for different things. If we have truth, but don’t live right, our armour has big holes. So, where is the enemy going to shoot? Of course, right in the spot where our armour is missing.

*2Co 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:*

*2Co 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*

By putting on our armour we can pull down these strongholds!!! We cannot do it on our own. One of the most important battles that set the stage to overcome all the others is the battle between our ears.

*2Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself*

*against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the*

 *obedience of Christ;*

*2Co 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.*

Without the whole armour of God we are not able to control our minds. Those weapons that win our battles come from being in submission to God’s Word. Every thought that goes against the Word needs to be thrown down and traded with a thought from the Word of Truth! Our obedience to the Word is a sure win over any enemy in this battlefield of our soul.

Our mind is lawless! We want to say whatever comes to our mind and do whatever pleases our flesh! The Word of God brings civility to humanity. Could you imagine not having any laws whatsoever? Have you ever been in a home with a lot of kids that have very few rules? Chaos reigns. Nothing can be accomplished. A business would flop if the employees had no rules and regulations. If they were never told how they were to do their job, one employee might make a part for a machine a certain way and another employee thinks that his part should be made the way he wants to do it. The parts will not work together. Without order, chaos reigns. There is a certain uneasiness that accompanies a life with no lines. Kids will act out because they are nervous about having no structure. God’s universe runs on rules. Everything is exact and perfect. Yet, our flesh is always pushing on the thing that is the best for us.

The Word is tried and tested. It has stood the test of the ages, and the Word just gets clearer. The more that time passes, the more we see God’s Word come to pass.

When tempted to be rude to our family, if we will find out what God has to say about our behavior, we can then, adjust our behavior to fit the Word. When we do that, we conquer all our enemies. The devil wants you to be rude, your flesh wants to be rude, and in this day and age the world promotes that being a jerk to others is quite all right. When you give in to these temptations, you allow the enemy to prevail. So, get back up, get your armour on, and fight!

* **Activity**

You can do this activity from the beginning of the class or give it to them for homework.

Give the students a pen and paper and ask them to write down every negative thought that they had during a specified period. They don’t have to reveal the actual thought, but just that they had one.

Then, have the students think of a positive thought to replace the negative one. They may write down positive thoughts! We want to hear those positive thoughts!!!!

You may give them a small prize for participating. This activity gets them thinking before speaking. One prize that is fun to give is Dum Dum suckers. Tell them that they get to eat the Dum Dum because bad thoughts are Dum Dum!!!