





THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

FIGHT! WEEK 24 Ephesians 6:13-20

Christians fight from victory, not for victory.

If you remember your history lessons from high school, you probably recall that while World War II started in September 1939, the U.S. remained in a position of neutrality until December 1941. Churchill and other leaders pled with the U.S. to jump in the fight before it was too late and Hitler overtook all of Europe. Yet, FDR remained steadfastly neutral until one event changed it all: Pearl Harbor. The U.S. was comfortably situated in a more or less insulated world, bound on the east and west by two oceans. The threat of war felt far away until the Japanese warplanes made their surprise attack on December 7th. What happened from that point was precisely what General Yamamoto foresaw: Japan had awakened a sleeping giant.

Of course, the rest is history. However, the lesson is relevant for today's church. Too often, Christians live their lives falsely believing that they are insulated from the war that is raging in the spiritual and physical realms. Some Christians opt for a position of neutrality, seeking the benefits of both kingdoms. All the while, the kingdom of Satan rages on exploiting and destroying as many lives as possible.

The cross of Christ awakens us to the reality of this spiritual war. The cross compels us to abandon our neutrality and sincerely enlist ourselves in God's army as soldiers marching forward to redeem souls for God's kingdom. Now is the time to take up Christ's call to fight for the faith. We need to have our own awakening so that we can see His true awakening in Las Vegas and throughout the world.

(10 min) OPENING PRAYER

Pray that God will permeate your time with His presence. Ask God to unveil your spiritual eyes from any blindness to the spiritual war that we are in. Invite God into your time together and anticipate a fresh working of God's Spirit.

(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Based on the study, discuss the reality of the two kingdoms at war with one another. Make sure to discuss the power of the cross, allegiance to Jesus, the ways that Satan's kingdom influences the world, and the church's ultimate mission.

People and their salvation are our mision.

2. Discuss the whole armor of God presented by Paul in Ephesians 6. Discuss the importance of each aspect.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ."

3. Acts 19 reveals the planting of the church in Ephesus and the spiritual war that unfolded in this city. Read through this chapter together. Discuss those things that emerge as you consider what a real work of God looks like when a city undergoes a revival. How can that happen in Las Vegas?

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: **2** Timothy **2:24** "And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will."

EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER: Spend time as a life group praying and discussing the key things that emerge from your discussion of this week's questions. Use the weapon of prayer that God has given to you and pray in Jesus' name for principalities and powers to be broken in families, prodigal children, and struggling marriages. Ask God to grant the Spirit of Revelation to those in your life who are lost and need Jesus. Pray that ideologies and strongholds being held over our nation will be deconstructed, and the light of God's truth will shine.



(5 min) LIVE IT

Be intentional about centering each day this week around the presence of Christ in your life. Begin each day in prayer and dedicate daily time to reading Scripture. Focus on the Source this week. Purpose your feet to carry you to gospel opportunities. See people as Christ sees them and lovingly and boldly bring them His love.

