

SERMON SERIES DISCIPLING GUIDE

Series: As It Is In Heaven • Sermon: Kingdoms in Conflict • Date: Oct. 20/21, 2018 • Speaker: Dave Mohr

READ TOGETHER

Open your Bibles to **Ephesians 6:10-17** and read it together.

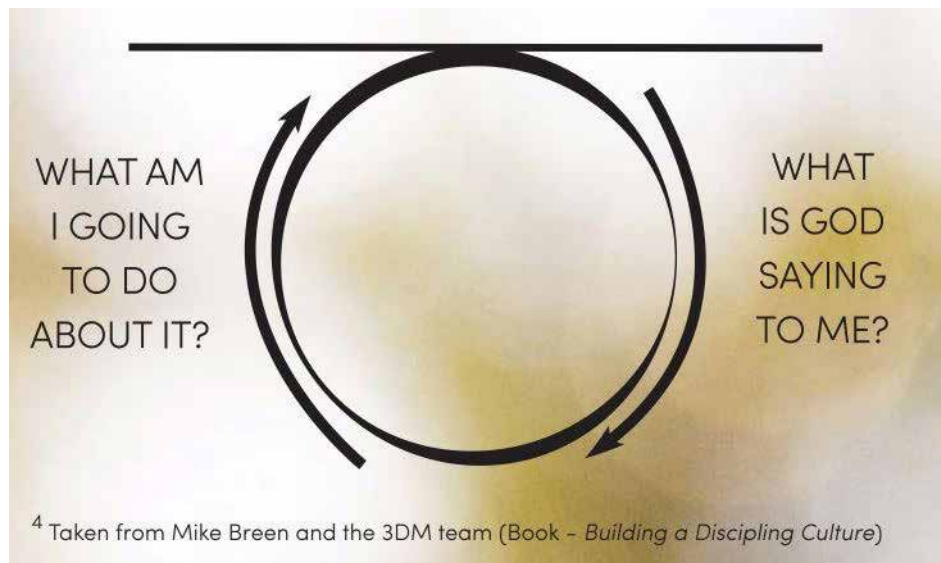
THE REALITY OF LIFE

There is a battle. A battle for our souls, our time, our finances, our morals... How do you see this impacting you day to day? How do you experience this battle? What does "spiritual battle" look like in your life today?

What environment are you giving the enemy? It's an important question to ask. Consider the way you operate, the choices you make, the beliefs you work from throughout the day. What environment are you creating? One that protects and guards against spiritual attack? One that more or less gives the enemy freedom to do what he wants? Remember, this is not to promote guilt, but to increase awareness.

Read **John 8:44** - Satan is the father of lies. Of deception. It's one thing to consider our own personal life, but how do you think deception and lies of the enemy are at work in our culture, city and neighborhood? What does it look like? How have you felt it?

Take a look at the picture below. This is a great tool to use as you disciple others. The line represents a flow of time. Your day, for example. As your day moves along, there are often instances where something will happen. Let's say you feel tempted by something. A great practice of a disciple is to stop, and "travel the circle". Stop, and ask God, "*what are you saying to me, and what am I going to do about it?*". This is a great way to invite God's presence and voice into the midst of temptation or spiritual battle.



Try it. With all of your reflections from the questions above, take a few minutes of silence together to simply ask God if He wants to say anything to you. If He does, ask Him what He wants you to do about it. Then share anything you believe God said with one another.

GOD'S STRATEGY

Where the power is - "*Be strong*" is not something done by you, but done to you" - What do you believe is the difference between your power to do battle, and God's power? When have you experienced this difference in your life? Why do you think it is so difficult to give control to God?

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Where the life is - "Depending on Jesus is not an act of desperation, it's a way of life" - Have you experienced this difference in your life? Viewing Jesus as a failsafe or last ditch effort... rather than a way of life? What do you think life looks like when it's a "way of life" versus an "act of desperation"? Where do you think you are at in this personally?

Where the deception is - Dave encouraged each of us to identify the lies in our lives. Take a moment to listen to God and reflect. Is there something you have been believing (i.e. "God does not actually love me") that you have been accepting and operating out of? If yes, take a minute to express that lie to God, releasing it and casting it off. Invite God's truth in, letting that settle into place in your heart and mind. Share with your group anything you identified and prayed through.

Where the protection is - Re-read Ephesians 6:10-17. As you read about the Armor of God, what jumps out to you, personally? Why? What do you believe is most necessary in your life right now? What piece do you think is lacking or missing in your life?

As you wrap up, have someone pray this over your group:

God, thank You for assuring me of victory today. By faith I choose to follow Your battle plan and to prepare myself according to Your instructions.

*By faith I put on **the belt of TRUTH**. I allow the truth of Your Son Jesus and His Word to define me. Assure me of who I am, as I place you at the centre of my whole life. I align my desires to yours.*

*By faith I put on **the breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS**. I embrace the truth that I am Your child through Jesus' work on the cross. I will not believe the lies I am tempted to believe. I choose to be conformed to Your character and allow the righteousness of Jesus to shine through me.*

*By faith I put on **the shoes of PEACE**. I am ready and available to You. I will live as one prepared to be used in the lives of others. I pray for wisdom to accurately represent You. Help me embody peace everywhere I go.*

*I now take up **the shield of FAITH**. I am gratefully convinced of Your truth. By faith I allow You to go before me. By faith I claim victory even as temptations come my way. You rule over all.*

*By faith I put on **the helmet of SALVATION**. Thank You for saving me. Thank You for forgiving me. Thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to live inside me. Holy Spirit, I surrender my will to You today. I surrender my thoughts to You.*

*By faith, I take up **the sword of the SPIRIT**. By Your Spirit I am both protected and empowered. By Your Spirit I choose to let you lead. By Your Spirit I choose to let You guide.*

Holy God, may others see Jesus in me. May Satan and his hosts shudder as Your power is manifest through me. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN.