



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Stand Firm Week 5: The Shield of Faith
August 8 & 11, 2024

LEADER NOTES: Fall trimester: August 19–December 8. **New Leader Trainings:** August 11 at every campus, August 19 via Zoom.

Continue to be equipped to lead your group: You can listen to every episode of our *Leading Well in 7 Minutes or Less* podcast for free on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#).

Be aware of the intensity of this sermon series and how the idea of spiritual warfare will land differently on each of your group members. Our beliefs about Satan and demons are greatly influenced by our upbringing and churches we have attended. Beware of group members falling into one of two extremes. 1. You don't believe in Satan or demons or that we are at war at all. 2. You see the devil and demons around every corner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW: Become a New Believer Ambassador: Walk alongside new believers and help them take next steps to deepen their relationship with Jesus. You'll spend one to one time in a disciple-making relationship, leading them through a five-week devotional designed to deepen their faith. For more information [click here](#). To sign up [click here](#).

FREE NEW RESOURCE: During this series, Pastor Joby has mentioned *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis. You can listen to it for free via these links: [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#) and [YouTube](#).

Join us in serving the homeless community: Our local partners are looking for compassionate individuals to help share the love of Christ by addressing the medical needs of the homeless in our community. There are daytime and evening opportunities available. [Click here for more info and to sign up](#).

10:10 Life - Honoring, Loving and Caring for Our Senior Adults: Your disciple group can join in with our teams that bring Eleven22 worship to senior adult residents. You can also be a part of special events at Senior Living locations. All ages are welcome. Contact senioradults@coe22.com for more information.

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN: Download our app for [Apple](#) and [Android](#). Click the "Daily" icon at the bottom of the app for our daily Bible reading plan.

Share Wins, Praises and Prayers: Where did you see God move this week?

Sermon Text: *Genesis 15:1; Matthew 14:22-33; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 11; 1 John 5:4; Revelation 12:10*

Discussion Questions

Leaders: Please make sure you get to the **action step** every week. There is no pressure to get through all the questions; prayerfully plan your choices for your group.

- **Read *Ephesians 6:16* and *Hebrews 11*.** What stood out to you in the sermon this week and what did God reveal to you in the Scriptures, maybe for the first time?

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

- This sermon series is about spiritual warfare where we are commanded to take up the armor of God. Pastor Britt shared his recent supernatural encounter with God and said, “You won't have an encounter with God unless you put yourself in a position to do so.” What are some practical things you can do to put yourself in that position?

THE ATTACKS OF THE ENEMY:

- **Read *Matthew 12:25*; *James 1:5-8* and *Genesis 15:1*.** Part of Satan's attack is to divide us and sow seeds of doubt. What are the doubt-filled questions the enemy is bombarding you with?
- The flaming darts of the enemy include - fear, bitterness, rejection and lust. If you were your enemy, how would you take you out? Take 5 minutes right now to write that down. You aren't required to share this with the entire group. Consider sharing this with one of your “mat carriers” this week to bring it into the light. (*Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 and Romans 8:31-39 for encouragement to turn away from temptation.*)

THE SHIELD OF FAITH:

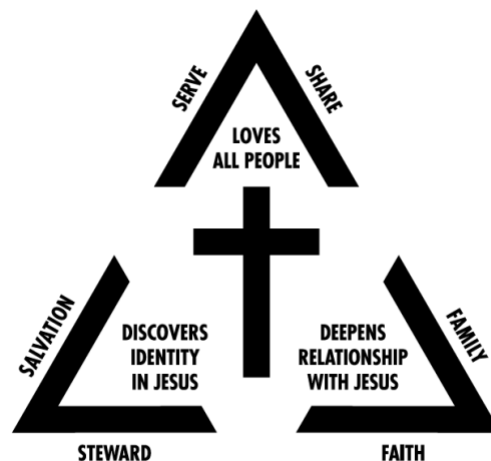
- **Discover:** Read Genesis 15:1. Where in your life are you complacent, apathetic or just going along like everyone else without getting God involved and raising your shield? (*The shield of faith is powerful because of WHOM our faith is in. Just like Pastor Britt's example of using his father's badge, when we hold up the shield of faith, we are saying to Satan, "Do you know who my Father is and the power He has?" Read 1 John 4:3-4 and ask God to help you wake up to the battle.*)
- **Deepen:** Share how you've experienced God as your shield and protector (as Pastor Britt shared how his dad's police badge/shield protected him).
- **What steps can you take to ensure you're always prepared to use the shield of faith?** (*We are fighting from victory, but the shield of faith only works if you take it up and go into battle linked with others. Be prepared: Find scriptures in the Bible to help renew your mind and protect your heart when you are feeling exposed to the attack of the enemy. Meditate on the word of God and praise God for who He is and what He's doing in your life. Establish a brother or sister in Christ you can go to when you're feeling tempted or attacked.*)

Action Step

Engage in Shielding Prayer: Just as the Roman soldiers would soak their shields in water to extinguish fiery arrows, spend time in prayer each day asking God to soak your life in His presence. This prayer time is meant to strengthen your faith, so it can act as a shield against any attacks from the enemy. Use Genesis 15:1 as a reminder that God Himself is your shield and great reward.

Your Discipleship Journey

- **RightNow Media:** Find *an unending supply of resources* by signing up for a FREE RightNow Media account. Go to coe22.com/rightnowmedia or text “RightNow” to 441122.
(Note: You'll need to login or create an account to view RightNow Media content.)
- Details on the 10:10 Life are available at coe22.com/1010life.



Go to coe22.com/resources/discipleship-journey/ and click “Download Tool” to download or print a discipleship journey tool with questions for you to ask yourself and others. Please share the link and directions with others in your group.