



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Stand Firm Week 7: The Sword of the Spirit
August 22 & 25, 2024

LEADER NOTES: Fall trimester: August 19–December 8. **New Leader Trainings:** [December 8](#) on campus; [December 9](#) via Zoom.

Leading Well in 7 Minutes or Less - New Episode: Do you ever wonder about the EXACT definition of a disciple? Ever wonder EXACTLY what we mean when we talk about making disciples who make disciples? Listen for free on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New: Find your “It is written”s on the Word of God - Speak app for iPhone. “The Word of God - Speak app is the fastest way to access Bible verses based on your exact need. It is designed to help you instantly get to some of the most powerful verses in the Bible with a simple tap.” You can download the app for free [by clicking here](#).

Prepare for Saturated: [Click here](#) to learn more about our 21 days of prayer and fasting and to sign up to receive daily devotionals from Gretchen Martin.

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](#).

Equip your Disciple Group: Our Equipping Ministry teachers are available to come to your Disciple Group to teach a session on interpreting scripture, world religions, ways to create your testimony, how to disciple your family and more. [Click here for more info](#).

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?

The Point: Our enemy, the devil, is the Father of Lies. Do not believe the whispers but stand on the truth of the word of God. “It is written.”

Sermon Text: *Genesis 3:1-7; Deuteronomy 8:3; 1 Samuel 7:3; Psalm 91; 119; 139:14; Matthew 4:1-11; 6:24; Luke 4:1-13; John 8:31-32; Romans 8:31-39; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; 2 Corinthians 2:11; 5:17; Ephesians 6:10-17; Colossians 2:13-15; 1 Timothy 6; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; 1 John 2:15-16*

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 6:10-17*; *2 Timothy 3:16* and *Luke 4:1-13*. 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?**

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT:

- **Read *Ephesians 6:17*. How does the Sword of the Spirit differ from the other pieces of spiritual armor mentioned in *Ephesians 6*, and why is it critical in spiritual warfare?** *(It's the only offensive weapon we have been given to fight against the enemy (although it can also be a defensive weapon). It's the word of God. It's truth - John 17:17; God-breathed - 2 Tim 3:16-17; living, active and sharp - Hebrews 4:12; a light to our path - Psalm 119:105; eternal - Matt 24:35; Isaiah 40:8; a shield of refuge - Proverbs 30:5 and so much more.)*
- **Who or what should we use the Sword of the Spirit against and who should we NOT attack with it?** *(We are called to a spiritual war against Satan, not a war against people. We are NOT to use the bible as a sledgehammer to fight and bludgeon people. We are not to cast judgment or threaten, but to share God's love, compassion and truth and allow the Holy Spirit to convict and call to repentance when necessary.)*

TEMPTATION AND IDENTITY:

- **Discover:** Read *Matthew 4:1-11*. When the enemy comes at you with mind games, what are some specific strategies you can use to identify and resist the devil's lies? *(The enemy wants you to doubt your beliefs and believe your doubts. Know your identity in Christ. Suit up for war. Identify the lies of the enemy. Read *Romans 12:1-2*. Do not conform to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Have your "it is written"s and remember that "it is finished." You are called to abide in Jesus. Read *John 8:31-32*.)*
Deepen: Share your routine for reading the Bible, praying and abiding in Jesus.
- **Discover:** What can you learn from the fact that Jesus was tempted immediately after his high, holy moment of baptism? *(Often the enemy attacks when we feel invulnerable or we're on a high. It's not a sin to be tempted. Even Jesus was tempted. It only becomes sin when you act on the temptation.)*
Deepen: Share a time you've faced temptation after a high moment in your life. *(You will still be tempted even after you've been saved. We live in a fallen world. Even though we've been given a new heart and a new spirit at salvation—and the Holy Spirit to live in us—you still have the same mind. You are most vulnerable to temptation and sin at your highest and lowest moments - remember HALTS: Hungry, Angry, Lonely, Tired, Stressed. When you do fall to sin meditate on *Romans 8:1*, repent and return to the loving arms of the father.)*

Action Step

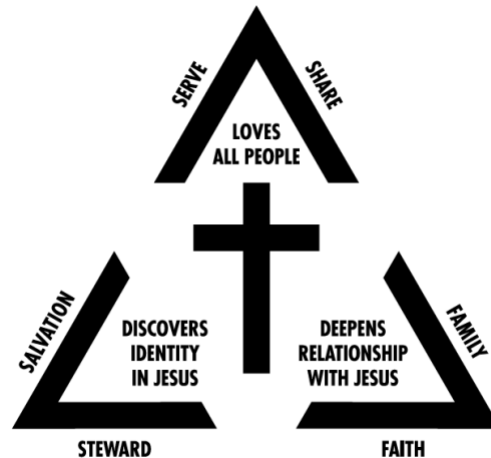
Where in your life are you believing the lies from the enemy? Find your, “it is written”s in scripture to counter these lies. For example, if you struggle with feeling unloved, meditate on and memorize Psalm 139:14, which reminds you that you are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” (See *Page 2 of The Eleven 22 Times* for more lies and truths as well.)

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.