

JMBC

2020 Theme

Kingdom Citizens Engaged in Spiritual

Warfare Equipped for Victory

Ephesians 6:11

BIBLE STUDY

SPIRITUAL

WARFARE

THE SWORD
OF THE SPIRIT

WHICH IS THE WORD OF
GOD... EPHESIANS 6:17

April Emphasis Church Family Warfare

SCRIPTURES

April 5 - John 19: 25-27
April 12 - John 20: 11-18
April 19 - Proverbs 17: 1-6
April 26 - Isaiah 53: 1-10

Thought

Kingdom Citizens engaged in Church Family Warfare strive to build healthy relationships by following Jesus' examples of surrendering His life so that others could live and for presence of peace in our world of chaos.

Key Words

Cross, Grief, Victory, Blessings,
Sacrifice

May Emphasis Females & Spiritual Warfare

SCRIPTURES

May 3 - Mark 15: 39-47
May 10 - Exodus 2: 1-10
May 17 - Luke 8: 40-56
May 24 - Numbers 27: 1-11
May 31 - Exodus 1:15-22

Thought

Kingdom Women engaged in Spiritual Warfare possess a faith that is fierce and fearless that pushes them to be diligent in the struggle to overcome the challenges of life.

Key Words

Protector, Healing, Inheritance,
Courageous

June Emphasis Males in Spiritual Warfare

SCRIPTURES

June 7 - 2 Corinthians 10: 1-5
June 14 - Isaiah 54: 11-17
June 21 - Joshua 24: 14-15
June 28 - 1 Peter 5: 7-10

Thought

Kingdom Men engaged in Spiritual Warfare know that the key to being victorious is to give their families a covering and protection that keep them safe from the enemy's tactics. They provide examples of toughness executing use of spiritual weapons and tenderness of heart as they seek God for guidance.

Key Words

Victory, Warrior, Defender,
Rely on God

Week of March 30– April 5, 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

APRIL EMPHASIS: CHURCH FAMILY WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens engaged in Church Family Warfare strive to build healthy relationships by following Jesus' examples of surrendering His life so that others could live and for presence of peace in our world of chaos.

WORDS: Cross, Grief, Victory, Blessings, Sacrifice

LESSON FOURTEEN: THE WARFARE OF THE CROSS

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Are you a person who only thinks of yourself?
2. How important is family to you? (Church family?)
3. Do you know that the family was the first institution God created?

TEXT: JOHN 19:25-27

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: A CONVERSATION ABOUT FAMILY FROM A "CROSS" PERSPECTIVE

Introduction: John, the writer of this book, is giving us a detailed and informative account of Jesus' final moments on the Cross. Although he seemed to have, through history, rejected the recordings of other evangelists' passages, now he comes face to face with the sufferings and death of his Master's chain and cross. John has a renewed perspective because of the Cross. In fact, what John rejected from other evangelists, he now is placing great interest and emphasis on what he is about to witness. There were seven important conversations or last sayings that Jesus had on the Cross. In this lesson, we will look at the third saying which was Jesus showing concern and care for His family.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS SIMPLY MUST KNOW THIS: "CARE FOR YOUR FAMILY;" (V25 NIV) says, "*Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.*" Jesus was sending a powerful message that family matters! Family counts! Family means something! Jesus sees Mary standing there. He cares for her and does what he can for her except take away her pain. Even at the point of death, He was living out the fifth commandment, "Honor your father and mother" (Exodus 20:12). Remember, this whole "Cross" perspective is, that Jesus is preparing to die to atone mankind for their sins, which in actuality begins the family which is known as "*the body of Christ.*"

The family is nothing new to Jesus because it was the first institution created by God. Sin did not cancel the family, it merely separated us from God. You can see that “family “ is so important to God because He sacrificed His Only Son to put the family back together again. Kingdom Citizens need to know that no matter how bad it gets, how dark life can become, and how lonesome it can be at times, it’s good to know that there are those in the family who have your back.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST KNOW THIS: “CARE FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL FAMILY.” (V26 MSG)

says, *“Jesus saw His mother and the disciple He loved standing near her. He said to His mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that moment the disciple accepted her as his own mother.”* Even though John and Jesus may have been cousins, what was more significant was that they were spiritually related. John knew that Jesus was Master, Teacher, Rabbi, and Lord, and he himself was student, pupil, follower, and obedient and humble servant. When Jesus said to John “Care for this woman”, John did not blink an eye. He took her in from that day forward. When Jesus called the disciples to follow Him, He also called them to become a part of a group with a nucleus of 12, then to 120, then to 3000, to 5000, and beyond. When you become a believer, you don’t just join your life to Christ. You also join your life to Christ’s family, the family of God. The Bible calls the church, the bride of Jesus. Someone once said that as a Christian, if you have a problem with the church, you are really saying, “I love Jesus; I just hate His wife.” Kingdom Citizens, know that you can’t have Jesus without the church. We are all FAMILY!

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST KNOW THIS: “VALUE OTHERS ABOVE YOURSELF.”

We see here that Jesus, without question, is the apparent consummate servant. He stressed to His disciples on many occasions that “I did not come to be served, but to serve” **(Mark 10:45)**. A true servant is not selfish or conceited. He places the needs of others above his own. Look at Jesus, He’s on the Cross, beaten, scorned, ridiculed, facing a horrible death, and the list goes on. He still cared more for others than His situation. **(VS 27 MSG)** says, *“Jesus saw His mother and the disciple He loved standing near her. He said to His mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that moment the disciple accepted her as his own mother.”* Jesus was not focused on His pain nor His circumstance. He was making sure that His mother was going to be taken care of. It was not just by anybody, but someone He trusted to care for her just like she was his own mother. This doesn’t mean not to care for yourself. On an airplane, in case of an emergency, you are instructed to put your oxygen mask on first, then tend to others. Kingdom Citizens, you are no good to others if you don’t take good care of yourself!

“WE ARE FAMILY!”

Week of April 6– April 12, 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

APRIL EMPHASIS: CHURCH FAMILY WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens engaged in Church Family Warfare strive to build healthy relationships by following Jesus' examples of surrendering His life so that others could live and for presence of peace in our world of chaos.

WORDS: Cross, Grief, Victory, Blessings, Sacrifice

LESSON FIFTEEN: FROM GRIEF TO VICTORY IN THE RESURRECTION

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Have you ever grieved so much, until you thought it would never end?
2. Do you understand that grieving is part of the healing process?
3. Do you know that grief can cause you to create healthier relationships with others, as well as a healthier lifestyle?

TEXT: JOHN 20:11-18

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: WEEPING MAY ENDURE FOR A NIGHT, BUT JOY, BLESSINGS, AND VICTORY WILL COME IN THE MORNING.

Introduction: From the Cross to the tomb, the grieving process continues. John and Peter find themselves standing in the very tomb where Jesus was buried, and Mary Magdalene stood outside. We can just imagine the questions they had about Jesus' whereabouts. It wasn't that they didn't know He was going to rise; they simply when we don't understand it's purpose. understand what He meant when He told them. Grief can sometimes become unbearable simply when we don't understand its purpose. In this lesson, we see Jesus preparing for His ascension back to the Father and again taking time to care for Mary's grief. When we are experiencing grief beyond our ability to handle it, we don't have to look for Jesus too hard because "He Was There All The Time."

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS SHOULD NOT ALLOW THEIR MOMENTS OF GRIEF TO TURN INTO A PITY PARTY.

First of all, we must understand that grief can be the result of many situations and circumstances other than death. They could be bad relationships, financial woes, missed opportunities, bad health, irresponsible decisions, and the list goes on. What we must understand is that God knows our grief, and He does not desire for us to take up residence there. Yet, there are those who use their grief to get attention and pull others

in their situation so that they are not alone. Pity party time! No! Look at what actions Mary took to turn her grief into victory. **(VV 11-13 AMP)** show us four things Mary did to exercise hope in a time of great grief. First of all, *“she wept”* because Jesus died and was buried. Secondly, *“she stooped”* to see if Jesus was still there. Thirdly, *“she saw”* two angels in white sitting there. Lastly, *“she told”* them. Mary exercised her parental rights to find out what was going on with her son. She didn't become content with just grieving, but she endured with hope **(I Thessalonians 4:13)**. Some people are guilty of saying “don't cry” when a person is grieving. What we must understand is that our tears are temporary relief from the pains of sorrow and grief. Kingdom Citizens know that there is victory beyond our tears if we have hope.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST KNOW THAT BASED ON THE EXTENT OF OUR GRIEF IT CAN SOMETIMES CAUSE US TO LOSE OUR FOCUS AND SOMETIMES EVEN OUR HOPE.

Grief affects people in many different ways. How a person may react to grief can depend upon the severity of the circumstance. Without question, because Jesus was Mary's son, she was having a much harder time dealing with her grief than John and Peter. **(VV 14-15 MSG)** say, *“After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't recognize Him. Jesus spoke to her, “Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for? She, thinking He was the gardener, said, “Mister, if you took Him, where did you put Him so I can care for Him.”* Can you imagine for a moment, seeing your child and not recognize him. By Jesus' response “Woman”, she was more convinced that was not Him. Was Mary so distressed with tears that she couldn't recognize Jesus? Was it because Jesus' appearance was altered but retained some of the marks of His suffering? Or did she simply not expect Him to be there and her mind was preoccupied with other thoughts? Yes, to all of the above. There was something different about the risen Jesus so that He was not always recognized. He was not playing a trick on Mary by allowing her not to recognize Him, but He was breaking through her unbelief and forgetfulness of His promise of resurrection. Only believe!

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST KNOW THAT IN OUR MOMENTS OF GRIEF ALL WE NEED IS ONE WORD FROM THE LORD. **(VS 16A MSG)**

“Jesus said, “Mary”, and she immediately recognized Jesus. (16B) Turning to face Him, she said in Hebrew, Rabboni! Meaning “Teacher!” Mary didn't just recognize Jesus, but she went from extreme grief to sheer excitement. So much so that she hugged Jesus, and His response to her was **(VV 17-18)** *“Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them. I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God. Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to the disciples: I saw the Master! And she told them everything He said to her.”* Jesus spoke one word to Mary and all was explained. Jesus didn't reveal to Mary who He was; instead he told Mary who she was to Him. Kingdom Citizens should know that in moments of extreme grief, Jesus can speak one word to us and change our situation; we must tell others that earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal. What a powerful sermon Jesus preached with “one word.”

VICTORY IS MINE; VICTORY TODAY IS MINE!

Week of April 13– April 19 , 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

APRIL EMPHASIS: CHURCH FAMILY WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens engaged in Church Family Warfare strive to build healthy relationships by following Jesus' examples of surrendering His life so that others could live and for presence of peace in our world of chaos.

WORDS: Cross, Grief, Victory, Blessings, Sacrifice

LESSON SIXTEEN: DIFFICULT FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Have you ever been guilty of taking something that doesn't belong to you?
2. What position or side do you take when it comes to family feuds?
3. Do you believe that everything God does for us is for our good and His glory?

TEXT: GENESIS 27:1-9

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT EVERY BLESSING THAT GOD GIVES HAS A NAME ON IT WHAT GOD HAS FOR YOU IS FOR YOU!

Introduction: Without question, this is a sad story; it is a pitiful tale of a family that is experiencing family warfare. Deception, lies, schemes, plots, you name it, Everybody, every single major player in this story comes out looking bad. Isaac, Rebekah, Esau and Jacob. Just messy! Yet, in all this, the story highlighted God's sovereignty and grace. There is an old saying that "If you don't get caught in the washing, you'll get caught in the rinsing." There is a great lesson we should learn from this story, and that is, God has called us to live by divine revelation, rather than mere convention or natural affection.

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS SHOULD KNOW THAT OBEDIENCE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN OUR AFFECTIONS TOWARD OUR FAMILY. In verses 1-4, we see that Isaac is planning to stop God's will by appointing Esau as heir and head of the covenant. Right away, we can see the sins of Isaac and Esau. We do not know whether Isaac knew of the deal between Esau and Jacob in (**Chapter 25**), but he did know that the oracle, or priest acting as a medium, told him God's will which was simply that the older son would serve the younger. It is clear that Isaac loved Esau very much, but he allows his fatherly affection and his worldly preference of Esau over Jacob to blur his obedience to God's will and command. In (**VS 2B**), Isaac said, "I am now an old man and don't know the day of my death," which implies that he was not overly concerned with the consequences of his disobedience. Isaac was trying his very best to fulfill his personal agenda with his favorite son without regards to what he knew God commanded.

Remember, first of all, Esau already despised and valued his birthright of the covenant over a cup of soup or broth. This tells us a lot about his heart. He's worldly and cares more about food than his eternal spiritual blessings and his relationship with God. Kingdom Citizens, let's be honest. You do know some people who would do anything for some food. Even hunger can cloud your thinking! Secondly, we see Esau go behind the back of his brother and against the oath he had taken with Jacob attempting to gain the blessing of his father anyway. What a tragedy when the trust in a family is obscured and used for unlawful gain. Although this was a family issue, it can also be a church family issue. Obedience is better than sacrifice.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST KNOW THAT DOING THE RIGHT THING DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN IT IS THE RIGHTEOUS THING TO DO.

We have to remember as previously mentioned everyone in this story ends up looking bad! In verses 5-9, we see Rebekah advising Jacob to deceive his father. First of all, we cannot know for sure that she was spying on them; she simply could have overheard their conversation. We can more than assume that she plotted and schemed for Jacob to become heir and head of the covenant. Again, we see where the parent uses her motherly affection to do what she believes is right. How she went about doing it places her in the unrighteous category. She uses Isaac's blindness to put together a plan to distort his instructions to Esau. Esau actually hunted his game while Jacob merely got his from the flock. There was no difference in the taste of the food. It was just that Isaac thought of Esau as a mighty warrior. Isaac was blind, and he relied on his other senses to continue to disobey God's will, but even his senses failed him. No matter how much this family tried to thwart God's plan, they failed. Isaac was dead set on blessing Esau no matter what God has said in His Word. Rebekah's fundamental problem is spiritual. She lacks faith in the justice and sovereignty of God. She took her cause into her own hands thinking that she will be able to fix it better than God Almighty. The lesson to be learned today is that we must trust God in whatever plans He has for us. We might not always agree with the direction God is leading us, but we do know that His plans are fail-proof.

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST KNOW THAT WE CAN CAUSE UNNECESSARY GRIEF FOR OURSELVES WHEN WE INTERFERE WITH GOD'S PLAN. The truth of the matter in this story is all the grief and problems could have been avoided if they had simply been obedient to God's will. Again, they all came out looking bad, but I believe that Rebekah suffered most. Here's the application of this passage. She trusted in herself and leaned on her own understanding. She allowed her affections for her son to cloud her knowledge of what God's Word said; she never went the way of faith. She was the mastermind of this plot, but her plot resulted in hatred, dissension, and more. No one in this house trusted one another. Integrity was out the window! Kingdom Citizens, there is a great lesson to learn from this story, and it can be found in **(Proverbs 3:1-8 NIV)**. Our obedience and steadfastness in God's Word will bless us beyond measure; this which in return gives us the opportunity to bless God and others.

LORD, HELP ME TO TRUST YOU AND TO BE TRUSTED!

Week of April 20– April 26, 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

APRIL EMPHASIS: CHURCH FAMILY WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Citizens engaged in Church Family Warfare strive to build healthy relationships by following Jesus' examples of surrendering His life so that others could live and for presence of peace in our world of chaos.

WORDS: Cross, Grief, Victory, Blessings, Sacrifice

LESSON SEVENTEEN: SALVATION FOR THE FAMILY

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Is everyone in your family saved?
2. Have you taken the time to explain what spiritual warfare is all about and make sure your family is fully equipped for battle?
3. Does your family know and understand that through Jesus' suffering, we have the victory?

TEXT: ISAIAH 53:1-10

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST KNOW THAT BECAUSE JESUS SUFFERED AND SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO RECLAIM US, WE WILL ENDURE SOME GRIEF AND BLESSINGS AS WE BUILD AND REBUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAMILY AND OTHERS.

Introduction: This is a powerful, detailed, message foretold by the prophet Isaiah about the sufferings of the coming Messiah and the display of God's concern and compassion toward His family. This prophecy also highlights the advantages given to mankind from this event. Here's the irony! Who and what we expected to see was nothing like that. He wasn't physically attractive at all. Here's the thing; it wasn't His outer appearance that would redeem us from our sins, but the heart of Jesus was beautiful and powerful enough to save mankind. Although we may look good on the outside, we are messed up on the inside. It took someone who was unattractive outside, with a perfect quality inside to come and change us from the inside out. Would you do that for your family?

1. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST NEVER GIVE PLACE TO THE ENEMY IN THEIR FAMILIES.

First of all, spiritual warfare in the family has been around since the beginning of time. There is perhaps no greater battlefield that we will ever deal with than our families. Satan's desire was for the entire human race to fall, and his first order of business was to divide a husband and wife from their God, who ultimately held that union together. If Satan can do that, he has a greater chance of getting the children as well. The good news is that we can win this battle on the home front!

(VV 1-3A MSG) say, *“Who believes what we’ve heard and seen? Who would have thought God’s saving power would look like this?”* Jesus is on His way to redeem mankind, and Satan is already playing tricks on the mind of one of God’s prophets. Isaiah anticipated two things which would happen: First, how strange and contradictory it seems that Jesus’ appearance wasn’t all that great and yet He was still **“salvation”** and **“cleansing”** to the nation and secondly, that Jesus would be rejected and people wouldn’t believe their report. Even Satan knows that if he can twist your mind, your thinking, how you rationalize things, he can ultimately change you. This is where the importance of salvation and relationship with God come in. This is spiritual warfare, and it must be fought in the spirit. The only way to access the spirit realm is by a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

2. KINGDOM CITIZENS MUST KNOW THAT WITH SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN THE FAMILY COMES SORROWS, GRIEFS, AND PAINS. Just because we are family, doesn’t mean that we are always going to agree and perhaps not get along at times. It’s part of the process of battle. Essentially, there are a couple of major things that will hold our families together and keep Satan at bay. First, each family member must know and function in their respective roles, and secondly, each family member must remain connected to and put God first in the home. These respective roles are laid out in the Word of God for the purpose of spiritual warfare. **(Verses 3B-9)** show us in great details the suffering, sorrows, griefs, and pains of Jesus. We must understand these feelings and expressions Jesus was going through. He was not feeling sorry for Himself, like we do. He wasn’t throwing Himself a pity party, like we do. Instead, His sorrow was for others and the desperate condition of mankind. He knew sorrow and grief intimately which among other reasons made Him **“despised and rejected.”** Kingdom Citizens, in spiritual warfare, we must learn to bear the pains and sorrows of others who might not be spiritually where we are. Remember the time when you weren’t there!

3. KINGDOM CITIZENS KNOW THAT A GREAT SACRIFICE WAS MADE BY JESUS TO RECLAIM THE FAMILY OF GOD. When God created the heavens and the earth, He said it was good; but when He made man, He said it was very good. Because God is “omniscient” (knows all things), He knew that Satan would disrupt the bond between Him and His family. Something had to be done. Jesus was the only way that we could be redeemed back into God’s family. **(V10A NIV)** says, *“Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer.”* God was not happy with the suffering His Son endured, but He was pleased that the Father and Son worked together **“at the cross.”** Even though Jesus was punished as if He were a sinner, He was performing the most holy service unto God the Father ever offered. The Father’s work was completed when He reconciled the world back to Himself. Fathers, in our earthly families, have the awesome responsibility of reconciling the family through Jesus Christ. The blessings in spiritual warfare are simply knowing who Jesus is and what He has done.

THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE!

Week of April 27– May 3, 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

MAY EMPHASIS: FEMALES & SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Women engaged in Spiritual Warfare possess a faith that is fierce and fearless that pushes them to be diligent in the struggle to overcome the challenges of life.

WORDS: Protector, Healing, Inheritance, Courageous

LESSON EIGHTEEN: DEVOUT WOMEN IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. What are some struggles peculiar to women?
2. How are some of the struggles for women different from the struggles men face?
3. How do women gain victory in spite of the warfare?

TEXT: MARK 15:39-47

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM WOMEN AT THE CROSS

Introduction: Women throughout history have experienced a multitude of different issues. The warfare is real: from Eve in the Garden of Eden to Deborah in the book of Judges, Hannah in First Samuel to Esther in the kingdom of Persia. Women have always encountered struggles, dealt with hardship, and even overcame obstacles. Much of the Old Testament as well as the New Testament operated under a male led society. Because of this and other social and religious stigma, women were often viewed as less than men. Into this world of the New Testament, we find several women in today's passage concerned about the body of Jesus receiving a proper burial. These women, who supported His ministry while He was alive, now stand at the Cross as He dies.

1. KINGDOM WOMEN FIND A WAY TO STAY CLOSE TO THE LORD.

(VV 39-41) “And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.” **(NIV)** Most of the disciples had fled; the crowds had dispersed looking for a provider in a different place, but the women stayed. These women showed great courage and strength during a very difficult season in Jesus' life. Mary, the mother of Jesus and other God-fearing women remained close enough to see Jesus die and to see where they would bury Him. In our culture, we have a variety of attitudes about both death and burial, but in Jerusalem, in Israel, it was important to give a cherished loved one a proper burial. Because the men closest to Jesus were afraid to handle this, the women took it upon themselves to do so.

2. KINGDOM WOMEN OPERATING UNDER AUTHORITY. (VV 42-46 NIV)

“It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So, Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock.”

Though these women cared deeply for Jesus, and they wanted Him to receive a proper burial, they knew that they had to be wise and patient. Unlike today when many women hold positions of power, popularity and prestige, these women had to follow the lead of the men. Joseph of Arimathea made a bold move to request the body of Jesus; Pilate granted the request. Joseph then did many things necessary for the burial. Had the women gone to Pilate, they would have been dismissed, or possibly not even been admitted into his presence. Do not miss the point: Kingdom Women can get a lot done if they are willing to follow protocol. Know where you are, know the guidelines and procedures, and work within the established framework. These women did not complain about the culture; they operated within it.

3. KINGDOM WOMEN WATCH AND PRAY. (V 43 NIV)

“Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.”

A strong Kingdom Woman is a diligent, alert woman. She is not one who spends idle time on things that don’t matter, but like Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, they are women who watch and pray. Although the verse does not use the word ‘pray,’ it is implied. You cannot do the work of God without prayer. They saw where the body of Jesus was; now they were prepared to give Him a proper burial. Kingdom Citizens, did you see that these women did not serve alone? Did you notice that they were always in groups?

**DEVOUT KINGDOM WOMEN WALK, SERVE, AND WORSHIP WITH
DEVOUT KINGDOM WOMEN.**

Week of May 4– May 10, 2020 (HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY)

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

MAY EMPHASIS: FEMALES & SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Women engaged in Spiritual Warfare possess a faith that is fierce and fearless that pushes them to be diligent in the struggle to overcome the challenges of life.

WORDS: Protector, Healing, Inheritance, Courageous

LESSON NINETEEN: MOTHERS FIGHTING TO SAVE THEIR CHILDREN

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How far will a mother go to save her child?
2. Why is the bond between a mother and child different from the bond between a father and child, or is there a difference?
3. What is one thing you love or loved about your mother?

TEXT: EXODUS 2:1-10

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: GOD, MOTHERS, AND THEIR CHILDREN: WHAT A RELATIONSHIP?

Introduction: As we consider the text for this week, we must look back at chapter one of the book of Exodus. In chapter one, a new king arose who did not know Joseph; in other words, the privileges that the Israelites enjoyed because of the name of Joseph in Egypt were about to change. When God is about to do something great in our lives, often the securities of the past disappear. The king issued an edict, *“Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”* Into this world, God gave Amram and Jochebed a male child. Now, what shall they do? Like Jochebed, Kingdom Women are always making life decisions.

1. A MOTHER MAKING A HARD CHOICE TO SAVE HER SON (VV 1-3 NIV)

“Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ²and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. ³But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile.” A mother will go a long way to protect her child(ren), even if it is detrimental to her own life and well-being. As we read the text, the words are, **she saw that he was a fine child.** (NLT) says, **“She saw that he was a special baby.”** Without saying it, the text implies that she sensed that this child was created with a special purpose. Mothers know and sense things about their children that fathers often miss. Maybe there is a special connection because mothers carry their children for nine months.. Also, it may just be that mothers pay

closer attention to their children than fathers. Whatever the case, Jochebed was not going to throw him in the river as the Pharaoh commanded. She saw something in him.

2. AN OBEDIENT YOUNG WOMAN CAN BE A BLESSING TO HER FAMILY.

(VV 3-8)

⁴ His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. ⁵ Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. ⁶ She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. ⁷ Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" ⁸ "Yes, go," she answered. So, the girl went and got the baby's mother.

Did her mother tell her to follow that child or did she follow the basket on her own? Either way, she put herself in a position to be a blessing to her family, and ultimately save the life of her little brother. She could not take him out of the water, but she could see who did. Her mother had done her part; now it was Miriam's turn. A family can accomplish a lot for the Kingdom of God when they work together. Let's just suppose her mother did tell her to follow that basket. Then she became God's angel to oversee her baby brother. A word to young women, if you are obedient, you can be a blessing to your family every day.

3. KINGDOM WOMEN WILL EXPERIENCE GOD'S FAITHFULNESS WHEN THEY TRUST HIM BY FAITH. (VV 9-10 NIV)

⁹ Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So, the woman took the baby and nursed him. ¹⁰ When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water."

Wow! Look at God. Not only did he protect Moses in the river, but he brought him into the house of his oppressor to be raised as a Prince, and not only that, but he would be reared by his biological mother, **AND** she would be paid for raising her own son. Ain't the Lord good? Let me say to Kingdom Mothers (and fathers), when you trust God, even with life's most difficult situation, He will exceed your wildest dreams.

Week of May 11– May 17, 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

MAY EMPHASIS: FEMALES & SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Women engaged in Spiritual Warfare possess a faith that is fierce and fearless that pushes them to be diligent in the struggle to overcome the challenges of life.

WORDS: Protector, Healing, Inheritance, Courageous

LESSON TWENTY: FEMALES STRUGGLE FOR LIFE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. As a woman, is it easier to ask for help, or to give help?
2. Have you ever encountered a desperate situation?
3. What is the hardest part about having a sick child?

TEXT: LUKE 8:40-56

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: YOUNG WOMEN AND OLDER WOMEN ENCOUNTER DESPERATE SITUATIONS.

Introduction: Life is filled with ups and downs. No one person has a corner on the market called trouble. The story we have before us today is a familiar one in the Christian Church, but there are still many lessons to learn. In our text, we encounter two females, one young and one older; nevertheless, both are in desperate need. One comes on her own, and the other is represented by her father. Both need healing and neither can change her circumstance. Both are crying out to Jesus. Maybe that's where you are today, desperate and afraid, calling on the name of the Lord. If this is your situation, may I say, Jesus is here, ready and willing to heal.

1. KINGDOM WOMEN, THERE ARE KINGDOM GIRLS WHO HAVE PROBLEMS TOO. (VV 40-45 NIV)

Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him.⁴¹ Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house⁴² because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him.⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her.⁴⁴ She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.⁴⁵ "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." I am always intrigued by this passage; there are so many moving parts: the crowds, Jairus, the woman, the disciples, and the people at the house. Into this vast arena of needs walks Jesus. Jarius has a very sick daughter. Without being redundant, may I say that a sick child brings to the surface a parent's great fear and stirs deep emotions. Not only is this girl ill, but the text says she **is his only daughter . . . and she was dying.** One of the most difficult considerations for a parent is the thought of

burying his child. This was a dark day for Jarius. Nevertheless, he is not the only one with a problem. **YOU ARE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A PROBLEM.** Into this very tense, emotional moment, Jesus stopped and asked, what to Jarius and the crowd seemed a pretty unusual question, “Who touched Me?” How do you respond when Jesus is taking too long to answer your request? The question and the ‘stop’ delay Jesus from getting to Jarius’ house. A delay by the Lord does not mean that He has forgotten or is ignoring your request. **Kingdom Women, you are not the only one with a problem.** He will come to your rescue.

2. YOUR HEALING MAY BE CONNECTED TO THE HEALING OF SOMEONE ELSE (VV 46-56 NIV)

⁴⁶ But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.” ⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.” ⁴⁹ While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” he said. “Don’t bother the teacher anymore.” ⁵⁰ Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.” ⁵¹ When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child’s father and mother. ⁵² Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. “Stop wailing,” Jesus said. “She is not dead but asleep.” ⁵³ They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴ But he took her by the hand and said, “My child, get up!” ⁵⁵ Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. ⁵⁶ Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

The woman is healed; the crowds are amazed. Jarius’ daughter dies, then she is raised from the dead. The disciples can’t believe it. What can we learn:

1. Wait on the Lord and be of good courage; He will strengthen your heart.
2. Trusting God is always worth the wait.
3. Don’t allow negative opinions to cause you to doubt God.
4. If we trust God, He will blow our minds.

KINGDOM WOMEN, TRUST GOD AND NEVER, EVER DOUBT; HE WILL SURELY BRING YOU OUT!

Week of May 18– May 24, 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

MAY EMPHASIS: FEMALES & SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Women engaged in Spiritual Warfare possess a faith that is fierce and fearless that pushes them to be diligent in the struggle to overcome the challenges of life.

WORDS: Protector, Healing, Inheritance, Courageous

LESSON TWENTY-ONE: WOMEN'S RIGHTS

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. When it comes to business, why are women often treated differently than men?
2. As a woman, have you ever felt the need to take a male with you when making a large purchase?
3. What are some of the injustices in our society toward women?

TEXT: NUMBERS 27:1-11

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM WOMEN IN WARFARE FOR WHAT IS RIGHT

Introduction: Women's Rights: What we know from Scripture is that God created the woman as a complement and a gift to man (**Gen. 2:18, 22**). She is to be treasured, protected, and selflessly served the way Christ loves and serves His church (**Eph. 5:25–30**). But fallen man, acting according to his sinful flesh, perverted what God created. Over time, God's ideal for the woman was shattered, and she became little more than a sexual object, baby-bearer, and slave to the man. This was not God's plan, just as war, disease, and suffering were not His plan. But God allows humankind free will to choose whether to honor His commands or defy them; however, consequences come with either choice. One consequence that resulted from man's misuse of the woman God gave him was that one-half of His image (**Gen. 1:27**) had been abused, subjugated, disrespected, and violated throughout history. When God gave the Law to the Israelites (**Ex. 24:12**), He worked within the social structure they already knew. Ancient civilizations were often violent, idolatrous, superstitious, and evil (**Gen. 6:5–6**). God called out a people and began to teach them about Himself, helped them separate themselves from the pagan nations around them, and showed them a better way to live (**Jer. 32:38–39**). One aspect of His Law elevated the status of women and children to new heights. God worked within their social structure to ensure "women's rights;" that is, in the Law women were protected, given fair treatment, and provided for so that no woman could be used and then discarded as was the practice in the pagan nations. God implemented specific laws to protect widows, orphans, and single women without male providers (**Exodus 22:22; Deuteronomy 27:19; Joshua 17:3–4**).

1. AS A KINGDOM CITIZEN, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

(V1) The daughters of Zelophehad son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, belonged to the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph. The names of the daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah.

These women knew who they were. They were descendants of Israel. As the people of God, we cannot claim rights if we are not properly connected to the Lord. In the physical sense, one cannot claim property of the deceased unless they are blood kin or legally adopted. Because of the blood of Christ, all Christians have been adopted into the family of God.

2. WHEN STRUGGLING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT, ALWAYS SHOW RESPECT AND ADDRESS THE PROPER AUTHORITY.

(VV 1B - 4) They came forward ² and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting and said, ³ “Our father died in the wilderness. He was not among Korah’s followers, who banded together against the LORD, but he died for his own sin and left no sons. ⁴ Why should our father’s name disappear from his clan because he had no son? Give us property among our father’s relatives.”

If you have ever had a family member die and property was left, then you know that people will do all kinds of unscrupulous things to get a piece of the property. However, these women were only asking for what was rightly theirs. Look at their approach verses 1-2; look at their appeal verse 3, and look at their request, not demand, verse 4. Kingdom Women, you can get what’s yours; just go about it the right way.

3. FOR WOMEN TO RECEIVE THEIR POSSESSIONS, GODLY LEADERS MUST SEEK THE LORD.

(VV 5-11) So Moses brought their case before the Lord, ⁶ and the Lord said to him, ⁷ “What Zelophehad’s daughters are saying is right. You must certainly give them property as an inheritance among their father’s relatives and give their father’s inheritance to them. ⁸ “Say to the Israelites, ‘If a man dies and leaves no son, give his inheritance to his daughter. ⁹ If he has no daughter, give his inheritance to his brothers. ¹⁰ If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. ¹¹ If his father had no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative in his clan, that he may possess it. This is to have the force of law for the Israelites, as the Lord commanded Moses.”

Being confronted with a new ministry situation, Moses did what any godly leader should do; he took the matter to the Lord in prayer. Because he recognized and was humbled enough to seek the Lord, God gave him the response he needed. Trust God, and do right.

Week of May 25– May 31, 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

MAY EMPHASIS: FEMALES & SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Women engaged in Spiritual Warfare possess a faith that is fierce and fearless that pushes them to be diligent in the struggle to overcome the challenges of life.

WORDS: Protector, Healing, Inheritance, Courageous

LESSON TWENTY-TWO: WOMEN OVERCOMING OPPRESSION

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. In what areas have you faced adversity in the workplace?
2. Have you ever been asked to do something that conflicted with your faith?
3. Because we live more and more in a society that does not recognize God as supreme, if you have not been called on to do something that conflicts with your faith, there is a very good chance you will be.

TEXT: EXODUS 1:15-22

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: WOMEN MAKING TOUGH CHOICES IN THE WORKPLACE TRUSTING GOD FOR THE OUTCOME.

Introduction: For women who work outside the home and for those who have worked outside the home, you are aware of challenges that employment can bring. According to the US Department of Labor: There are 74.6 million women in the civilian labor force. Almost 47 percent of U.S. workers are women. More than 39 percent of women work in occupations where women make up at least three-quarters of the workforce. Women own close to 10 million businesses, accounting for \$1.4 trillion in receipts.

As we consider our text today, we see that women have been an active part of the professional workforce for a long time. Because women work outside the home, many encounter a multitude of challenges. Some of these challenges are ethical, others are moral, and all of them are spiritual. How should a God-fearing woman handle an ethical or moral dilemma on her job? Making the decision to take a stand in the workplace can be costly.

1. A WORKPLACE COMMAND AND A WORKPLACE DECISION (VV 15-17)

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶“When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” ¹⁷The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

The instructions were given, “If the child is a boy, kill it.” These midwives made a decision; now they must face the consequences. Yes, this is a harsh command; it was

inhumane and barbaric, but nevertheless, it was the king's command. Have you ever disagreed vehemently with a decision a secular boss made? If so, how did you handle it? The king said . . . The midwives did . . . More often than not, if you follow the commands, and instructions, you will not have a problem. It's when we go against the grain that we encounter friction and even reprisal. **(V17 NLT)** says, **"But because the midwives feared God, they refused to obey the king's orders. They allowed the boys to live, too."** Two key words in this verse are feared and refused. This was not just an off the cuff decision; it was calculated, and it was deliberate. When we consider the outcome of their decision, we must conclude that God was in their decision making. When we make a spiritual decision in the workplace, we must know that the outcome may not always be what we expect.

2. EVERY SPIRITUAL DECISION IN THE WORKPLACE HAS CONSEQUENCES (VV 18-19)

¹⁸Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?" ¹⁹The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive."

- A. One of the questions that theologians have pondered for centuries is "Is it ok to lie when you are doing the will of God when the situation is critical?"
- B. If the midwives had not lied, would God have found another way to save Moses?
- C. Is there a place for lying in the daily life of the believer?

3. KINGDOM WOMEN CAN EXPECT GOD TO SHOW UP WHEN THEY FEAR HIM AND DISPLAY OBEDIENCE. (VV 20-22)

²⁰So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. ²²Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

- A. How many of you have lied to help someone?
- B. Have you ever signed someone into work who was not there yet?
- C. Does this passage give Christians a license to lie?
- D. Did God use the midwives' decision to get Moses to the palace?

KINGDOM WOMEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORKPLACE, BY TRUSTING AND DEPENDING ON THE LORD.

Week of June 1– June 7, 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

JUNE EMPHASIS: MALES IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Men engaged in Spiritual Warfare know that the key to being victorious is to give their families a covering and protection that keep them safe from the enemy's tactics. They provide examples of toughness executing use of spiritual weapons and tenderness of heart as they seek God for guidance.

WORDS: Victory, Warrior, Defender, Rely on God

LESSON TWENTY-THREE: SPIRITUAL WEAPONS FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Do you understand that you are a soldier in God's army?
2. Are you walking according to the flesh or according to God?
3. Are you prepared for total victory on the Spiritual Warfare battlefield?

TEXT: 2 CORINTHIANS 10:1-5

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM MEN KNOW THAT THEY MUST NOT SETTLE FOR A DRAW ON THE SPIRITUAL BATTLEFIELD. THERE CAN BE NO NEGOTIATION WITH THE ENEMY. AS SOLDIERS IN GOD'S ARMY, WE CAN SETTLE FOR NOTHING LESS THAN TOTAL VICTORY!

INTRODUCTION: The Bible has many accounts of engagement on the battlefield between the soldiers of God inspired armies and the soldiers of the rest of the world. Like many battlefields today, the results are mixed with one side or the other prevailing. Some of the battles happen over a period of time. The battles are costly in the destruction of human lives. In the New Testament the battlefield between the Lord's armies and the forces of Satan shifts to the mind and soul of the human being. Satan is the commander of spiritual forces that have one goal – to turn people away from following God. Kingdom men are constantly on the battlefield. In today's lesson, the Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthian church about the need for total spiritual victory on the battlefield.

1. KINGDOM MEN MUST BE TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC IN ENLISTING OTHERS FOR THE BATTLE. (VV 1-2)

When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, we allow ourselves to be happily conscripted into God's army. We fall under the watch of our spiritual leaders and begin to receive the strategy and tactics of our battle plan against spiritual wickedness. The

words, *“Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ,”* declare a strength that empowers him to be bold toward the enemy whom he aptly defines as those who think the followers of Christ are walking according to the flesh. A **“flesh”** walk gives Satan the advantage. The mindset of the Corinthians and of Kingdom men today should promote the awareness that this is a **spiritual** battle. We must respond boldly to the enemy when he tries to define us by getting into our heads, *“wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked according to the flesh.”* (VV 1-2) Paul also had to battle those who had attacked him personally, especially his apostleship. He assures them that his leadership credentials were sound. Likewise, Kingdom men must establish strong credentials of leadership for their families. The enemy must not have his way by destroying the authority of the leaders.

2. KINGDOM MEN KNOW THAT THE ROAD TO VICTORY IS DETERMINED BY THEIR CHRISTIAN WALK. (VV 3-4)

Paul wants the Corinthians to stay focused as they engage the battle. Even though they existed within their flesh bodies, the true battlefield is not according to the flesh. Pursuing an earthly victory is meaningless. *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh”* (V3) and therefore the battle cannot be won with the limited weaponry of earthly warfare. *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds”* (V4) Paul wants Kingdom men to understand that our army is fully equipped with the appropriate weaponry to assure a great victory. This is not a war that we can fight physically with our bodies. Victory cannot be won with carnal weapons that are of the flesh. Physical assault weapons won’t work. We cannot use our fists, knives or pistols, laser beams, guided missiles, or atom bombs. Wrestling, karate, kung fu, boxing, slapping, kicking, and tripping will be useless. This war must be fought with heart, soul, spirit, and mind; we must use them to conquer our own sinful desires, to resist Satanic temptations, to lead a holy life, and to lead others to Christ.

3. KINGDOM MEN KNOW THAT IF WE LIVE SPIRITUALLY, ABSOLUTE UNCONDITIONAL VICTORY IS GUARANTEED. (V5)

Paul continues by emphasizing that this is all spiritual, *“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”* (V5). Our weapons are **MIGHTY** because God has anointed them and because He has designed our weapons to pull down the strongholds of Satan in this world. Firmly grasping our weapons which include the Word of God, we can win a total spiritual victory against Satan’s desire to win the souls of men. Embracing the boldness of our spiritual leaders, every opportunity must be gained. Every means must be utilized, and every man must be reached. *Are you ready for the battle?? Come on Satan. Let’s get it on!!*

LORD, LET US AS STRONG MEN OF GOD BE FAITHFUL WARRIORS ON THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE BATTLEFIELD, STANDING FOR YOU WITHOUT COMPROMISE. WE CLAIM COMPLETE VICTORY IN YOUR NAME!!

Week of June 8– June 14, 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

JUNE EMPHASIS: MALES IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Men engaged in Spiritual Warfare know that the key to being victorious is to give their families a covering and protection that keep them safe from the enemy's tactics. They provide examples of toughness executing use of spiritual weapons and tenderness of heart as they seek God for guidance.

WORDS: Victory, Warrior, Defender, Rely on God

LESSON TWENTY-FOUR: SPIRITUAL VICTORY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Have you ever felt that a streak of "bad luck" was bringing you down?
2. Have you ever felt that you had permanently fallen out of favor with God?
3. Did you know that God restores and protects?

TEXT: ISAIAH 54:11-17

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM MEN KNOW THAT GOD STEPS IN DURING TOUGH TIMES WITH DIVINE RESTORATION AND PROTECTION.

INTRODUCTION: Kingdom men are constantly challenged by the world on every hand. Even though we try hard to stay on a positive path, sometimes the battle gets so tough that we stumble and fall. Our families suffer, and it seems like we can't do anything about it. Suddenly, it appears that Satan is winning the spiritual warfare battle. What are we who call ourselves Kingdom men to do? In our lesson today, God reveals that He has the power of restoration and protection and that He is willing to step in for us just as He stepped in to restore the nation of Israel after the exile. As dark as it may seem, there is still hope for spiritual victory!!

1. KINGDOM MEN SHOULD BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT GOD RESTORES WITH DIVINE PROTECTION. (VV 11-12)

In the lesson, the Prophet Isaiah is speaking to the people who are returning from exile. They are overwhelmed by the challenges of a new life. They see the crumbled world around them and wonder if there is any hope of God restoring to them the glory of the past. They remember how they had stumbled and fallen by turning away from God, resulting in them being taken into exile. Many wonder, "Is there any hope that God will restore us?" God is quick to answer, giving them a promise of complete restoration, "*So the LORD says to Jerusalem, O you afflicted, tossed with tempest and not comforted, I will set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires.*"

(VV 11-12) Another translation describes the condition this way, *“Afflicted city, lashed by storms and not comforted.”* God is about to come through for them in a big way. Those who have gathered against God’s anointed will not be successful because He has sovereign control. God’s promise is that He will enfold them in His loving arms of protection, and He will do the same for us. The protection of our God comes with an assurance of security and a great Spiritual warfare victory.

2. KINGDOM MEN KNOW THAT RESTORATION WILL BE OF SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE. (VV 13-15)

Verse 13 stresses the spiritual significance of this valuable restoration. It says, *“Your children will be taught by the LORD.”* In other words, the divine influence on future generations will be responsible not only for their being in the land and growing under God’s blessings, but also for the peace that they shall enjoy. So immediately after a description of how God will rebuild the city, there is the announcement of the spiritual influence on the people. *“And great will be their peace.”* Then, in verse 14, we read how the LORD will establish it with righteousness, the righteousness of God who will judge the wicked oppressing nations, and the righteousness of the people who believe in the LORD and walk in His ways. The promises of God for the covenant people stand, **but participation in them fully is based on faith and obedience.** How wonderful it is for Kingdom men today that the opportunity for the new beginning reaches down to us today and to the generations after us, to our families and for families to come. **God didn’t give it all to them. He saved some of it for us, too!!**

3. KINGDOM MEN KNOW THAT RESTORATION BRINGS PROTECTION FROM THE WEAPONS OF THE ENEMY. (VV 16-17)

God promised peace, security, righteousness, and spiritual service for the believing remnant, but they had to take His promises by faith and return rejoicing to the land to do it. God declares to Israel in verse 16 that both the one who makes the weapon and the one who uses it are under His sovereign control. *“No weapon”* brought against them will succeed, and no voice speaking against them will stand **(V17)**. The promise is for perfect peace. No weapon that is formed - No instrument of war, no sword, or spear; no instrument of persecution or torture that is made by man, not even Satan’s angry darts, shall prevail. *“This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and this is their vindication from me,”* declares the LORD. No one shall be able to injure you by words and accusations. The inheritance which awaits Kingdom men who serve God is truth and victory. It is the protection of God in all times of trouble.

LORD, WE RECEIVE YOUR DIVINE RESTORATION. HELP US AS KINGDOM MEN TO STAND BODILY AND CONFIDENTLY UNDER THE BANNER OF YOUR PROTECTION KNOWING THAT YOU WILL PROTECT US FROM THE WEAPONS OF THE ENEMY.

Week of June 15– June 21, 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

JUNE EMPHASIS: MALES IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Men engaged in Spiritual Warfare know that the key to being victorious is to give their families a covering and protection that keep them safe from the enemy's tactics. They provide examples of toughness executing use of spiritual weapons and tenderness of heart as they seek God for guidance.

WORDS: Victory, Warrior, Defender, Rely on God

LESSON TWENTY-FIVE: MEN STANDING FOR THEIR FAMILIES

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Are you hesitant about making decisions?
2. Do you invoke God's guidance to aid your decision making?
3. Does your family trust you to speak for them?

TEXT: JOSHUA 24:14-15

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM MEN KNOW THAT THEY MUST PROPERLY ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF GUIDING, SHAPING, AND SPEAKING FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

INTRODUCTION: We live in a world of choices. We choose what to wear, how to look, what to drive, who to hang out with, where to worship, where to live, and what to eat. Every day we are confronted with choices. It has even been said, "To make no choice is a choice." For Kingdom men, the greatest choice to be made is to choose Christ as Lord and Savior and to lead and stand with their families on this Christian walk. In our lesson today, Joshua gathers all the tribes together at Shechem and calls for the elders of Israel, for their heads, for their judges and for their officers to present themselves before God to **MAKE A CHOICE**. Kingdom men, have you made your choice of whom you will serve? Can you earnestly speak for your family on the matter?

1. KINGDOM MEN KNOW THAT SERVICE TO GOD REQUIRES TOTAL COMMITMENT. (V14)

Joshua knew how significant it was for the people to re-enter a covenant relationship with God. This is often necessary when God has bestowed a great blessing because sometimes, whether we want to admit it, we allow our blessings to distance us from He who blessed us. There is not a more beautiful incident in the Old Testament than the renewal of the covenant relationship between God and His people and of this time at the moment of their entering into possession of the promised land. It is an admirable model of the covenant which we, as Kingdom men, ought to constantly renew. Covenant renewing should be a part of every Kingdom man's daily living. We must teach the importance of our relationship with God, by sharing it with family, and passing it down

through successive generations. Joshua begins by admonishing the people to fear God which means that they must stand in reverence and in awe of Him. Only then can they truly see the magnificence of His power and greatness. He gave them a history lesson of how God brought them out of Egypt and led them into the Promised Land. He exhorts them to be committed. He tells them that they must serve Him in sincerity and truth, yielding their lives to His control. **This must begin by them making the choice to “put away” other gods.** Their worship of Him must be from the heart, a sincere and genuine commitment to obedience.

2. KINGDOM MEN KNOW THAT TOTAL COMMITMENT MEANS PUTTING AWAY THE GODS OF THE PAST. (V14)

Kingdom men must recognize that the power of choice is a sacred gift of God that must be well exercised!! This call to decision is personal and must be made by each man, *“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.”* The choice is not whether you will serve God or not, but which god will you serve? He knew that, like people today, little gods are often created and worshipped to serve man’s selfish desires. In those days, there were many choices of gods; examples are idol gods like Baal, the gods of the Egyptians, the gods of the Amorites, and many others worshipped by the peoples of the land. Today, we serve the gods of money, materialism, fun and recreation, sports, and entertainment. **Choice of God is a faculty of the Spirit not the intellect - of the heart, not the mind.** Total commitment begins by developing a mindset that God must always come first. The other gods must be put away!!

3. KINGDOM MEN KNOW THAT THEY MUST BE ABLE TO SPEAK BOLDLY FOR THEIR HOUSEHOLDS. (V10)

Joshua has made a wise decision, *“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”* The *Good News Bible* puts it this way, *“As for my family, and me, we will serve the Lord.”* Kingdom men should accept that the wisest way to exercise freedom of choice is to choose to submit to one who is far wiser than any man. It is our duty to serve the Lord from the relation in which we stand to Him and the bountiful benefits we derive from His goodness. Joshua has the audacity to speak for himself and for his family. The question for Kingdom men is this, **“Can you speak for your family and does your family trust you to speak for them?”** There is no time to be neutral. The time to choose is now!!

LORD, HELP SUSTAIN US AS KINGDOM MEN TO MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES FOR OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES. LET OUR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS GROW TO THE POINT THAT OUR FAMILIES ARE COMFORTABLE WITH OUR ABILITIES TO SPEAK FOR THEM.

Week of June 22– June 28, 2020

KINGDOM CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE EQUIPPED FOR VICTORY

JUNE EMPHASIS: MALES IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

THOUGHT: Kingdom Men engaged in Spiritual Warfare know that the key to being victorious is to give their families a covering and protection that keep them safe from the enemy's tactics. They provide examples of toughness executing use of spiritual weapons and tenderness of heart as they seek God for guidance.

WORDS: Victory, Warrior, Defender, Rely on God

LESSON TWENTY-SIX: MEN WHO GIVE THEIR WORRIES AND CARES TO THE LORD

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. Have you ever been so down in the dumps that you felt totally alone?
2. Do you sometimes feel that the problems of life are too much to bear?
3. Have you ever felt that your manhood is being attacked by the circumstances of the world?

TEXT: 1 PETER 5:7-10

THE HEART OF THE LESSON: KINGDOM KNOW THAT GOD CARES FOR THEM, AND HE IS VIGILANT TO PROVIDE WHAT THEY NEED TO HANDLE EVERY SITUATION.

INTRODUCTION: On the Spiritual Warfare battlefield, Satan enjoys messing with the minds of Kingdom men. Have you ever been in a situation where you felt that no one really understood you or really cared? Have you ever felt all alone in your sorrow? Many men have had to deal with these feelings, and some still do. Kingdom men are not exempted. It is interesting how Satan begins to play mind games in our head. He seeks to make us feel that no one has ever suffered as much as we have and that we are all alone in our fight for righteousness. In our lesson today, the Apostle Peter provides the ultimate solution to addressing these down feelings and presents God as always willing to help us deal with our pains, our anxieties, and our frustrations.

1. KINGDOM MEN MUST NOT BE HESITANT TO (IN A SPIRIT OF HUMILITY) CAST THEIR ANXIETIES TO THE LORD. (V7)

Peter gives a very clear reason why God is ready to deal with our anxieties. He says, ***"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."*** (V7) A humble spirit is necessary. Humbleness denotes submission and total surrender to God. Humbling of self before God is true humility and allows us a defense to being crushed by others or by the negative circumstances of life. Self-humbling is true humility. Humbling of self before God will lead to exaltation, ***"in due time he will exalt."*** Why? Because he cares

for you. Casting all your anxiety upon him denotes a voluntary act. As simple as it sounds, it is not easy to do. Many men feel that they are abdicating their manhood by showing humility and obedience, yet our God appreciates us giving away selfish ego for renewed power and strength. This shows real manhood for Kingdom men. What a comforting thought, "He cares for me." Though all may fail and forsake me, He has promised never to leave or forsake **Me**. Now we can see how true humility leads to freedom from anxiety.

2. KINGDOM MEN SHOULD BE EVER ALERT BECAUSE SATAN NEVER SLEEPS. (VV 8-9)

Peter urges that men *"Be alert and of sober mind" because your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*" He lets them know that they are not alone. *"Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings."* (VV 8-9) He emphasizes that men should be watchful. The Devil is never on our side; he is a constant adversary. He is not stationary; he "walks about" (prowls around) looking to see who he can destroy. He knows that destruction of the head of the household opens the door for him to take the rest of the family, thereby destroying what should be the strongest Christian unit – the family. He is an enemy who must be resisted. This is a universal battle because *"The same sufferings are accomplished in your brethren who are in the world."*

3. KINGDOM MEN KNOW THAT GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT AND THAT HE HAS A LOT OF IT TO GIVE. (V10)

Peter concludes his epistle with a prayer exhorting God's grace. He says, *"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."* (V 10) Throughout the scriptures, reference is made to God in many ways. Examples are He is a God of healing and a God of comfort. In this scripture, the most important characteristic of God is revealed; He is *"the God of all grace."* He is full of compassion, favor, and help. God has cornered the market on grace and is prepared to provide us with just the right amount needed for every situation. *"The God of"* means God is the source of all grace. God's grace is comprehensive and universal for any need of any believer at any time. The final assurance is this, *"after you have suffered a little while, [He] will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."* Your trials are not forever, even though some sufferings are far longer than others. God is ready to step in at the right time to give us what we need to handle each situation.

LORD, AS KINGDOM MEN MAKE US AWARE THAT WE MUST BE EVER WATCHFUL BECAUSE OUR ADVERSARY SATAN IS ALWAYS SEEKING TO SEPARATE US FROM YOU. THANK YOU FOR YOUR BOUNTIFUL AMAZING GRACE

QUARTER 2: APRIL-MAY-JUNE

APRIL 5 ----- THE WARFARE OF THE CROSS

APRIL 12 ----- FROM GRIEF TO VICTORY IN THE RESURRECTION

APRIL 19 ----- DIFFICULT FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

APRIL 26 ----- SALVATION FOR THE FAMILY

MAY 3 ----- DEVOUT WOMEN IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

MAY 10 ----- MOTHERS FIGHTING TO SAVE THEIR CHILDREN

MAY 17 ----- FEMALES STRUGGLE FOR LIFE

MAY 24 ----- WOMEN'S RIGHTS

MAY 31 ----- WOMEN OVERCOMING OPPRESSION

JUNE 7 ----- SPIRITUAL WEAPONS FOR SPIRITUAL WARFARE

JUNE 14 ----- SPIRITUAL VICTORY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

JUNE 21 ----- MEN STANDING FOR THEIR FAMILIES

JUNE 28 ----- MEN WHO GIVE THEIR WORRIES AND CARES TO THE LORD