

# Curriculum



## ***SAMPLE*** ***Spiritual Warfare***

### **Your 24 Inches**

It's Not Business, It's Personal

Your Battle Gear

Our Three Partners

Losing Your Focus

Win With Worship

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A sample of the Spiritual Warfare curriculum begins on the following page.

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### **LEARN: Overview**

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life](#)!

To find out more, visit [www.B-B-T.org](http://www.B-B-T.org).

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### **Curriculum: The BBT 1-2-3™ Format**

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



Recap – Encourages community and application

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### **LIVE: Sample Spiritual Warfare**

Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy. In this 6-lesson volume, learn how to recognize his schemes and how to utilize the weapons God has given us for this very real and personal battle. Topics include:

1. **Your 24 Inches**
2. **It's Not Business, It's Personal**
3. **Your Battle Gear**
4. **Our Three Partners**
5. **Losing Your Focus**
6. **Win with Worship**

No book is needed.

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### **LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study**

Start leading today! [Learn more.](#)



## PRAYERS



## LEARN

**Supernatural Struggle**

There is a cosmic, invisible struggle between good and evil, light and darkness, God and Satan. In this war there is no ceasefire, no truce, no time out, and no prisoners. But, just like you cannot control a flood with a flame-thrower or put out a forest fire with a floodlight; we cannot fight a spiritual war with earthly tactics. This is one of the reasons we lose the fight so often – we try to win in our human strength. The casualties are men, women, boys, and girls. All Christians are involved in this struggle and are called to stand in God's power against the forces of evil.

**It Is War**

A sergeant, after deploying his new recruits into a trench on a battlefield, took his bayonet and scratched marks in the dirt on either side of each man. Then he said, "Soldier, your battle exists between these two marks. Your sole task is to defend your 24 inches of battleground. Don't worry about everything and everyone else. That's my job. Don't worry about the whole battle, that's the brass's job. You just worry about your 24 inches; that's your battlefield."

Sometimes we can get so overwhelmed by the titanic clash between righteousness and evil that we forget all the players in the battlefield. There are no elite Christians who specialize in rebuking the devil. There are no spiritual Special Forces, Green Berets, or Seal Teams. I am in the battle. You are in the battle. And most importantly, God is in the battle. [Romans 16:20](#) says, "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet."

**Not An Option**

If you are a child of God – chosen from the foundation of the world, adopted into God's family, redeemed through His blood and sealed by His Spirit – you can be sure that Satan is after you. If you are walking after Christ, are being filled with the Spirit and submitting to other believers, seeking peace in all relationships – in the church, in your marriage, with your family, and in your workplace – you can be sure that Satan is after you. He will use diversion, division and deception as schemes to fool you. But, [1 John 4:4](#) says, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Like it or not, you must fight. You cannot ignore your 24 inches of the battlefield!



## LIVE

**Discussion questions:** Read the text and scriptures below, and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read [1 Peter 5:8](#) and [2 Corinthians 11:14-15](#). Against what kind of enemy are you fighting?
2. Read [Ephesians 6:10-12](#) and [1 John 5:19](#). What kind of "struggle" can you expect?
3. Read [Ephesians 6:13-17](#). How can you protect yourself in spiritual warfare?
4. Read [Ephesians 6:18-20](#). Why does going to your knees in prayer give you victory – especially over pride – that nothing else can?
5. Read [Colossians 2:13-15](#). How is God's power, your power and protection in spiritual warfare?

**Application Question:** What schemes does the enemy most often use to attack you?



## PRAYERS

**Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer**



## PRAYERS

## Opening Prayer &amp; Prayer Requests



## LEARN

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



## LIVE

**Discussion Questions:** Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

1) Read [1 Peter 5:8](#) and [2 Corinthians 11:14-15](#). Against what kind of enemy are you fighting?



POINT

Satan is a powerful creation who temporarily dominates the world. Unlike God, he can only be in one place at a time. However, his immense order of demons does his bidding around the world. He has no conscience, no compassion, and no remorse. He feeds on pain and suffering. He delights in anguish and filth.



DEEPER

Jesus called him "the prince of this world" in [John 12:31](#). In [2 Corinthians 4:4](#) he is described as "the god of this age" who has "blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ." [Ephesians 2:2](#) calls him "the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." In [Revelation 9:11](#), he is described by the Hebrew word *Abaddon* and in Greek as *Apollyon*. Both words translate as *destroyer*.

## Notes:

2) Read [Ephesians 6:10-12](#) and [1 John 5:19](#). What kind of "struggle" can you expect?



POINT

You can expect a personal and supernatural struggle because Satan and his disciplined "world rulers" cannot do anything to God. Instead, they choose to attack what is precious to God – us – especially when we are vulnerable and self-focused.



DEEPER

The word "struggle" in [v. 12](#) means hand-to-hand combat. It does not portray arrows, artillery or long-range bombing, but rather being down in the dirt, fighting with blood, sweat and tears – defending our 24 inches. We not only fight against Satan, but against his legions of fallen, evil angels. We cannot fight this enemy like we would fight a mere person in our own human strength. That's why [v. 10](#) says we cannot fight with conventional, human means but instead are to "be strong in the Lord and His mighty power."



TIP

Our spiritual struggle has serious implications for us. Re-read [Ephesians 6:11](#) and take some time to discuss your groups understanding of the strategies of Satan.

**Notes:** This verse speaks of the schemes of the devil. The idea of Satan's cunning comes from *methodia*, meaning methods or strategies which he has been honing for millennia. He is a master of *diversion* – attacking us while we blame circumstances or other people. He creates *division* between us and God and us and other

believers with whom we could battle together. He uses *deception* because he wants us to rely on our own talents instead of on the God who gave them to us.

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3) Read [Ephesians 6:13-17](#). How can you protect yourself in spiritual warfare?



Our protection in spiritual warfare is the armor of God, which enables us to take a stand against the enemy in battle.



Remember that we have been delivered – [Colossians 1:13](#). The only hold Satan has on you is what you give him. The victory is already ours in Jesus. Remember that we defeat the hordes of hell by being filled with the Spirit and living in holiness and peace – [James 4:7](#). Remember that you are strongest when you are weakest. When we rest in the Lord, we are most secure – [2 Corinthians 12:9](#).



Facilitate a brief discussion. You might discuss how you are managing the battle in the context of this quote from C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*. Screwtape is a highly placed assistant to Satan and is advising his nephew, a novice demon in the ranks in charge of securing the damnation of a young man. He says, "Provided that meetings, pamphlets, policies, movements, causes and crusades, matter more to him than prayers and sacraments and charity, he is ours..."

Notes:

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4) Read [Ephesians 6:18-20](#). Why does going to your knees in prayer give you victory – especially over pride – that nothing else can?



We put on the armor of God through prayer. Praying with perseverance – at all times – in the Spirit and on guard – watchful. "...God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." [James 4:6](#).



Satan doesn't attack our weakness so much as our strengths. He reveals our pride, getting us to rely on our own talents instead of on the God who gave them to us. "Pride glorifies man and robs God of the glory that only He deserves. Pride is a weapon that Satan wields with great skill."<sup>1</sup> If we trust in our own power and strength, we are issuing the devil an invitation to defeat us. But, when we fall to our knees in prayer, humbling ourselves before God and revealing our weakness "to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us," ([Ephesians 3:20](#)) the Spirit will intercede for us – see [Romans 8:26-27](#).

Notes:

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<sup>1</sup> Wiersbe, Warren W. *The Strategy of Satan*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 1979 p. 55



5) Read [Colossians 2:13-15](#). How is God's power, your power and protection in spiritual warfare?

Satan took his best shot at Jesus and lost as Jesus ultimately defeated Satan at the cross. Because we are in Christ, we have ultimate victory!



[Acts 26:18](#) gives us Paul's commission, "to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God." At the name of Jesus, the hosts of hell quiver. [James 2:19](#) says, "You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder." Even the demons believe that Jesus is the Son of God and always responded in fear of Christ. That is victory – our victory in Jesus!

## Notes:

Application Question: What schemes does the enemy most often use to attack you?



## PRAYERS

## Prayer Requests &amp; Closing Prayer



## LEAD

Ask Yourself: In what areas of my life am I most vulnerable and how will I defend my 24 inches there?

Sample



## PRAYERS

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## LEARN

The enemy uses many schemes to keep believers from relying on God and seeking help from each other. He uses diversion to keep believers blaming other things for his work. He tries to keep believers estranged from God and from each other. He deceives believers into relying on their own strengths rather than relying on God.

Scripture References for this study: [Romans 16:20](#), [1 John 4:4](#), [1 Peter 5:8](#), [2 Corinthians 11:14-15](#), [Ephesians 6:10-20](#), [1 John 5:19](#), [John 12:31](#), [2 Corinthians 4:4](#), [2 Corinthians 12:9](#), [Ephesians 2:2](#), [Revelation 9:11](#), [Colossians 1:13](#), [James 4:6-7](#), [Ephesians 3:20](#), [Romans 8:26-27](#), [Acts 26:18](#), [James 2:15](#), [Colossians 1:13-15](#)



## LIVE

- The scheme of diversion
- The scheme of division
- The scheme of deception

Application Question: What schemes does the enemy most often use to attack you?



## LEAD

**Ask Yourself:** In what areas of my life am I most vulnerable and how will I defend my 24 inches there?