

6-WEEK PURSUIT  
DEVOTIONALS  
WEEK 3 – GOD’S FIGHT

MONDAY - “SOMEONE WHO SHOWED ME JESUS”

**Devotional:**

Someone who has showed me Jesus is my friend and pastor: Ty. When I went to Ignite Summer, two years ago, the experience changed my life. God, working through Ty, has shown me how to pray, worship, and be a better Christian. Without Ty, I don’t know where I would be in my walk with God. He’s been a great friend and has helped me through some hard stuff. Ty is my brother, and I am so thankful that he is in my life.

From Slader Blackstead

**REFLECTION:**

When was the last time you reached out to someone and encouraged them? Many people touch our lives and it means the world to them to simply let them know: you are thankful for them. Who do you know that would be encouraged if you told them thank-you?

**PRAYER:**

Jesus, help us be a blessing to those around us. Help us to not be takers, but sharers in this walk. Give us hearts that are open to all those around us; even our mentors, that we may be a source of encouragement to everyone around us.

## **TUESDAY – “DAVID TO SOLOMON”**

### **Devotional:**

One of my favorite stories in the bible is the story of David and Goliath. I love how David tells the giant that the battle is the Lord’s. I have faced many battles in my life but none like this. As a child my imagination would always take me to battles like this where I won, but I never actually faced any. God has come through in other battles to always prove that He has already won the battle and the battle is the Lord’s!

Our battles are not same as David’s but they are battles that define us. Every battle that we are in has already been won by the Lord because the battle has always and always will be His!! He allows us to go through battles to grow us and to help us learn to lean upon Him in every situation. Our battle is not just against the enemy of our souls, but also against ourselves.

We always try to handle things ourselves instead of waiting upon the Lord to have His way. I think that a scripture found in Exodus answers it well.

Moses says to the people in Exodus 14:14. “The Lord will fight for you, you need only to be still.”

So today learn to lean on the one who’s got you. The Battle is the Lord’s!!

Pastor Vern Weaver

### **PRAYER:**

Let’s conclude with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel led. Pray...

- Pray that you will learn patience. God doesn’t always work in our time.
- Pray that you will always trust in the Lord no matter what.
- Pray that you might help someone else today learn to wait upon the Lord.

**WEDNESDAY – “I PUNCHED BECAUSE I WAS RIGHT”**

**BIBLE STUDY:**

Read James 4:1-10 before reading our Devotional.

**DEVOTIONAL:**

Dear Church Family,

I only ever punched someone once growing up; and not in a playful sort of way. It was the second grade and a friend of mine, we shall call Rusty, was always whining. At that age, for whatever the reason, whining and complaining truly gnawed at my nerves. And one fateful day, Rusty’s sobbing and bellyaching became too much for a young Ty to bear. Rusty was acting wrong, and he need to be corrected!

So, I did the reasonable thing and decked him in the face; giving him a bloody nose. I punched because I was right, and Rusty was acting wrong.

Have you ever picked a fight? Well, maybe you have not physically hit someone, (or maybe you have), but we have all been in fights. Whether we were exchanging kicks, hollering arguments, or calling names, we have all fallen victim to a fight at one time or another. Admittedly, for some of us, fighting is a daily routine and simply a component of our day-to-day itinerary.

But, have you ever stopped to ask: why do we pick fights? The brief answer is that we fight because we either want something or feel the need to defend something. Either way, it is motivated by a perspective that sees us as right, and others as wrong. As we read in James, these feelings are a direct result of our broken sinful nature.

James states that quarrelling amongst God’s people is unacceptable. And before you attempt to make the argument: “well, what if the person I am fighting with is not a follower of Jesus, or at least a questionable follower of Jesus?” You still call yourself a Christian, do you not? In no uncertain terms, James explains that our desire to fight is wrong. If we want to pick fights, argue, debate, and quarrel, then it is us who are in sin.

The words we read in James 4 are harsh. The reason is because God’s people will never flourish or even remotely resemble Jesus if they are fighting amongst themselves. And church, I want to participate with the solution. And that solution is humbling ourselves before God. In James 4:2-3, we read that we are to ask of God and not expect anything from others. But here we encounter our true struggle: our requests of God are meaningless if our hearts are out of line.

Thankfully, the solution is as we stated before: to simply humble ourselves before God. That being said, entrusting our battles to God is a difficult process for us; as it means confessing our weakness. Last week, we discussed the need for humility and a humble heart. This only further emphasizes why. We are broken and sinful, and thus we, ourselves, are not right. Only Jesus, is truly right. That is why He is called righteous. And the righteous one did not come to pick fights. Jesus came that all may be saved.

I want to follow Jesus. So therefore, I need to be at peace with those around me. I do not wish to start fights, ignore fights, or participate in them. Church, we must desire to share in Jesus’ identity as the Prince of Peace, and become peacemakers ourselves. You can trust God. The battles are His and He is for you, not against you.

Sincerely,  
Ty Weaver

**CHALLENGE:**

What or who do you constantly fight with? If not constantly, then what did you last argue or fight over with someone? Were you satisfied, in the moment, with the results of the fight? Why or why not?

All of our quarreling, arguing, and fighting contradicts who we are meant to be. So the question is: what will you do next time you find yourself in a conflict?

**PRAYER:**

Let’s conclude with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel lead. Listed below are some topics that could help guide this time of prayer.

- Pray for forgiveness from God
- Pray for God to increase your faith and trust in Him; that He will fight your battles.
- Pray for Jesus’ attitude of peace and peacemaking.

**THURSDAY – “FOOT-IN-MOUTH DISEASE”**

**BIBLE STUDY:**

Read Exodus 14:10-14

**DEVOTIONAL:**

Have you ever stuck your foot in your mouth? One phrase I used constantly in my early twenties was, “...a real job.” I worked in retail and the service industry for 10 years, but in my early twenties I was given, what I considered, a “real job” – an office job. I would go to Subway, or a coffee shop and ask them how their day was and try to empathize with them how rough the service industry was. Then, I would inevitably say, “I was so happy when I got a real job.”

Immediately, I regretted it. I knew what I meant by that, but the poor employees had no idea. I tried my best to fix my words and cover my tracks, but my foot was too big, and would stay stuck in my mouth.

The Israelites did this too. They were hot, tired, and discouraged from walking through the desert. Yes, they had just escaped slavery. Yes, they had just been freed from tyranny and torture. But they were wanted to taste their feet in their mouths and told Moses they would rather be back in Egypt as tortured slaves. Moses told them, God will fight for them and provide for them, they just had to get their feet out of their mouths and zip their lips!

How often do you interrupt what God is doing with your own thoughts and words? “But God did this last time, so why isn’t He doing it again?” Or “I know that I am right and my friend is the bad person. God, please get them out of my life!” God is in charge. Let me say that again. GOD IS IN CHARGE. He will fight for you. He will direct your path. He will keep you. We just need to be quiet and let Him.

Becky Weaver

**CHALLENGE:**

Take 15 minutes in prayer but remain silent. Let God speak to you. Let him fight your battles for you and guide your way.

**PRAYER:**

Pray about what is on your heart, and then leave room for God to speak to you.

**FRIDAY – “NOT MINE, BUT HIS”**

Everyone has trials in this life, not one person is exempt. I recently faced a “Giant” of my own, not knowing that the day ahead of me was going to be so dim. Heart surgery was not in my forecast for the day. A triple bypass was not supposed to be on my plate, yet it happened!

A year of healing was now looking like a not very fun event. Yet God took every part of my battle and used it for good. I can’t say it looked that way to me at all times, but He was faithful through a very unfriendly battle. God wants to use everything we go through for His good. He’s got this! The battle you are going through now is His!

Pastor Anita Weaver

**BIBLE STUDY:**

Read Romans 8:28

**PRAYER:**

Let’s conclude with a time of prayer. You can structure this time however you feel led. Pray....

- Thank God for His faithfulness.
- Know that He is with you through the battle.
- Give everything to Him.

**SATURDAY – “AN INTRODUCTION TO ELIJAH AND ELISHA”**

Elijah and Elisha, two men with two similar names, who virtually share the same story and legacy. Tomorrow, on Sunday, we will look at the stories of these two men and learn about God-given authority. But before we hear from the Sunday Sermon, let’s take a moment to setup some background to these heroes of our faith.

**ELIJAH:**

Below is a list of questions followed by Bible Verses. Read the verses and then answer the questions to learn more about Elijah and his character.

*Question #1: What guided Elijah’s every action? Read *1 Kings 17:1-16**

*Question #2: What did Elijah recognize as God’s voice? Read *1 Kings 19:9-16**

**ELISHA:**

Below is a similar list of questions followed by Bible Verses. Read the verses and then answer the questions to now learn about Elisha.

*Question #1: How did Elisha receive his anointing? Read *2 Kings 2:1-14**

*Question #2: What kind of person was Elisha? Read *2 Kings 6:8-23**

**FINAL QUESTION:** What is the difference between God-given authority and simply man’s own confidence?