



## How (Not) to Save the World, Week 7: Fight the Wrong Battles

The Lie: \_\_\_\_\_ battle is worth \_\_\_\_\_.

The Truth: \_\_\_\_\_ the battles \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ you to fight.

*...Why have you come down here? Who is watching your tiny flock in the wilderness? I'm your brother, and I know you—you're arrogant, and your heart is evil. You've come to watch the battle as if it were just entertainment."*

1 Samuel 17:28 (VOICE)

*"Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" He then turned away...*

1 Samuel 17:29–30 (NIV)

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"*

*Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."*

Mark 1:35-38 (NIV)

### How do you know what battles to fight?

\_\_\_\_\_ to spend \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.

*God chose us to be in a relationship with Him even before He laid out plans for this world...*

Ephesians 1:4 (VOICE)

## Discussion Questions

1. When was a time in your life that you were – or almost were – distracted by a lesser battle?

What is the danger if Jesus-followers are distracted by battles we're not called to? What's at risk?

What is a way that you will fight to spend time with God and rest in His presence this week?

## Recommended Resources

- *How (Not) to Save the World*, by Hosanna Wong
- *Winning Your Spiritual Battles*, by Tony Evans
- *How Did I Get Here?: Finding Your Way Back to God When Everything is Pulling You Away*, by Christine Caine
- *Rhythms of Renewal: Trading Stress and Anxiety for a Life of Peace and Purpose*, by Rebekah Lyons
- *Don't Give the Enemy a Seat at Your Table: It's Time to Win the Battle of Your Mind...*, by Louie Giglio
- *The Thing Beneath the Thing: What's Hidden Inside (and What God Helps Us Do About It)*, by Steve Carter
- "If I were your enemy." *Nothing to Prove Podcast, Season 8, Episode 1*, with Jennie Allen



## Session 6 | Fight the Wrong Battles

**Connect:** In your small group, take 5 to 7 mins to connect. Below are a few questions to guide your discussion.

- When you were younger, what was the funniest thing you got into a fight about with a sibling or a friend?

**Read:** In your small group, read and reflect on the following passages. See reflection questions below.

2 Corinthians 2:11 (VOICE)

*It's my duty to make sure that Satan does not win even a small victory over us, for we don't want to be naïve and then fall prey to his schemes.*

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 (VOICE)

**3** For though we walk in the world, we do not fight according to this world's rules of warfare. **4** The weapons of the war we're fighting are not of this world but are powered by God and effective at tearing down the strongholds erected against His truth. **5** We are demolishing arguments and ideas, every high-and-mighty philosophy that pits itself against the knowledge of the one true God. We are taking prisoners of every thought, every emotion, and subduing them into obedience to the Anointed One. **6** As soon as you choose obedience, we stand ready to punish every act of disobedience.

Ephesians 1:4 (VOICE)

*God chose us to be in a relationship with Him even before He laid out plans for this world; He wanted us to live holy lives characterized by love, free from sin, and blameless before Him.*

### Reflect:

- What do these passages teach us about what we're called to do?
- What kinds of things distract us from our calling?
- What is a time you were tempted to fight the wrong battle, because of something someone said or something someone did, that would have distracted you from what you were called to do?
- What is at risk if we become people who are distracted by the wrong battles?
- What is possible if we are a community of faith that steps up to the battles we are called to?

**Pray:** Pray for God to reveal to us the ways we've been distracted from our callings. Pray for God to remind us or reveal to us the real battles we are called to fight. Pray for our church family as a whole, that we would be a church on mission, undeterred, and undistracted by the agendas of the world. Pray that we are a community not ruled by our fears. Pray that we are a church community focused on Jesus, showing His love, and making Him known. May we come together and fight the battles God has called us to.