

ARMOR



GROUP STUDY



ARMOR: Group Study

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Week 3: Stand Against (Pt. 2)

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

1. PRAY

Ephesians 6:12 opens up with “for we do not wrestle against flesh and blood”. As we begin this study, we need to ask for the Spirit of God to lead our time.

Standing against the enemy is a spiritual battle and we need the Holy Spirit to take over. Read Romans 8:26-27 and then open your time in prayer.

2. SHARE

Most know that God has a plan for your life but during this week we learned that Satan has a plan for your life too. Satan is on the attack. As we have learned some more about this opponent, reflect on how Satan has attacked you in the past. Spend some time sharing how the enemy has attacked you in the past with your group. Remember that the enemy uses the world, our experiences, and wrong doctrine to attack us. (*this could be a sensitive time of sharing. Make sure that you serve everyone in your group by listening and even ministering to each other.)

3. STUDY

As we jump into our study, let's consider the life of Job. In the sermon we learned that as great as Satan can be, God is greater. He controls Satan, uses Satan, and defeats Satan. Let's lock in on how God uses Satan in the life of Job.

God allows blessing and suffering for His glory. Before we talk about the suffering that Job experienced, let's look at the blessing that Job received.

Job was blameless and upright in the sight of God and was blessed with a lot of provision from the Lord. Read Job 1:1-5 and discuss how God allowed blessing in Job's life. (faith, possessions, and family).

**Spend a few moments sharing how the Lord has allowed blessing in your life.
How are you serving the Lord in this blessing?**

Now let's consider Job's suffering. Remember that Job was upright and blameless in the eyes of the Lord. He did nothing to deserve the suffering that was to come. Not all suffering that we experience is because of our sin and it is not always our fault. God works through blessing and suffering. Read Job 1:6-12 and Job 2:1-6. God allows Satan to tempt Job and bring suffering into Job's life but Satan still has restrictions.

What restrictions does the Lord place upon Satan? *answers below

- Satan can do anything except touch him physically. (1:6-12)
- Satan can take his health not his life. (2:1-6)

As the book of Job continues, you will find out how Satan torments Job's possessions & family (Job 1:13-19), Job's health (2:7-8), and Job's reputation (Ch. 3-37).

For many the story of Job is really difficult to read and understand. Although we can't fully understand the ways of the Lord and why suffering continues to be allowed by the Lord in this world, we do know that God is in control and uses Satan's attacks to advance the Kingdom of God.

Let's look at how Job responds to this attack from Satan. In Job's suffering as he was attacked from Satan, Job began to question God. Have you ever questioned the will of God? Anyone who has ever gone through suffering or an attack can relate to this. Job questioned God's plan and even control over what was happening to him.

We might not understand why things happen or even why God allows suffering at times but we must always remember that God is in control and He has a purpose for everything. Job's response to this suffering will inspire us to stand against and continue to praise Jesus in our storms of life. Take some time to read the following responses.

- Job grieves this suffering but continues to stand against. Read Job 1:20-22.
- Job remains faithful through this suffering and continues to stand against. Read Job 2:9-10.
- Job repents of his doubt and continues to stand against. Read Job 42:1-6.

As we close our time, read how the Lord restores Job after a season of attacks from Satan in Job 42:10-11. Although we are not promised this kind of restoration, we do know that in Christ we have been, are being, and will be forever victorious. In the middle of our trials, let's remember that God is in control.

Romans 8:28 is one of the great promises in the Word of God.

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

God allowed Satan to tempt Job because he was going to prove that saving faith in God lasts anything in this world. ALL THINGS work together for God and His purposes. If God allows Satan to operate against a believer it is for a divine purpose.

Close out this time of study by sharing how God has worked all things (suffering and blessing) for good in your life. Let this time be a time of encouragement to continue to stand against the schemes of the devil.

4. RESPOND

As we close our time together, let's consider those who are not in our group. Spend a few moments thinking about and sharing about friends/relatives/neighbors/coworkers in your life that are going through a difficult time right now. Make sure to not share confidential or sensitive information but share enough so that you and your group can begin to think about how you can be a blessing to them. So many people are in need of Jesus and His church right now. Close out this time planning some ways that you can be a blessing to those who are in the middle of attacks from the enemy. After sharing these action items, close out in prayer.

“Prayer is where the action is.” (John Wesley)

Believe that the Lord is going to use you and your group to help others **STAND AGAINST** the schemes of the devil.