

FIGHT THE RIGHT FIGHT // PASTOR DALE O'SHIELDS

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Big Idea: Life is filled with challenges and what we do with our challenges determines the content and quality of our character. What we experience and where we end up in life is determined by our approach to the “fights” we face.

To fight the right fight, you must identify your challenges, understand the importance of the battle, commit to engage the fight, identify your resources and go on the offensive—actually fight the fight!

1 Samuel 17:45-46 (NIV) *David replied to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel.”*

Start Talking:

What is one spiritual battle you have faced and won with God’s help? What did you learn from this experience?

Start Thinking:

Read 1 Samuel 17:32-37. What are some of the ways God prepared David for the battle with Goliath? What are some ways He has prepared you to deal with the challenges you face?

Read 1 Samuel 17:8-9. Why is it important to know the significance of the spiritual battle you face?

Read 1 Samuel 17:40-47. What are some of the resources David drew on in his fight with Goliath? What resources do you have available for your battles?

Read 1 Samuel 17:48-51. What are some obstacles that might deter you from engaging in a spiritual battle that God wants you to fight? How can you overcome these and go on the offensive in this fight?

Start Praying:

Pray for the wisdom and courage to recognize and engage in the right spiritual battles in your life with the resources and strength of God.

Start Doing:

Read Ephesians 6:10-17 and commit to putting on the “full armor of God” (verse 13) to fight and win the battles God has for you in this season. From the following verses, identify and memorize the armor God has given you as a vital resource for your spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:14-17 (NIV) *Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God*