



ALL SAINTS  
PRESBYTERIAN

## Sermon Discussion Guide for All Saints Small Groups

### “The Fight”

Rev. Greg Grooms

**Sermon Date: November 19, 2017**

#### Scripture References:

##### God became flesh:

John 1:14

John 3:16

1 John 3:8

##### Jesus defeats satan:

Luke 4:1

Luke 4:4

Luke 4:8

Luke 4:12

##### Spiritual warfare:

James 4:7

##### Temptation:

Matthew 6:13

Luke 22:40

James 1: 13-18

##### Holy Spirit as helper:

John 14:16

##### Jesus as advocate:

1 John 2:1-2

Jude 1:24-25

2 Thess. 3:3

Hebrews 8: 1-2

##### Memorize scripture:

Colossians 3:16

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Psalms 119:9

Joshua 1:8

#### **INTRO Question(s):**

The Bible is clear regarding sin: 1) evil is a reality, 2) we are responsible for our actions and 3) sin leads to death. Our moral problem is so great that the only possible solution is God became flesh to dwell among His people as a human being and die in order to redeem us and secure eternal life.

What is the most insulting thing anybody ever said to you? What is the most flattering thing anybody ever said to you? It's the same – **“Jesus died for your sins”**. When was the last time you were reminded of this truth? Had this truth said to you? Or spoke this truth to others?

#### **Background:**

In Ephesians 6, Paul takes it a step further by not only saying evil is real, but satan is as well. In the *Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis writes there are two ways we fail regarding satan: 1) we become too fascinated with satan; 2) we can ignore and disbelieve the very existence.

In recent studies, famed researcher George Barna concludes greater than 95% of people in America believe in a God. This is encouraging as atheists are a minority. However, 62% do not believe in the existence of satan. In the book, *Death of Satan*, the author articulates we have lost a sense of satan and evil. The work of the devil is everywhere, but no one knows where to find him as he has rendered himself invisible. This makes it easier for the devil to hide, lurk, deceive and tempt his prey.

Thankfully Jesus shows us the way to respond with strength! In Luke 4, satan tempts Jesus. He promises authority over all the kingdoms of the world and all their glory if Jesus will worship him. Jesus already knew He stood to inherit everything according to the scripture “every knee should bow and every tongue should confess in Jesus Christ” (Phil 2:10-11). Satan was tempting Jesus to have it now without the cross. Jesus uses scripture to defeat!

We learn how to defeat temptation by observing Jesus behavior because, according to scripture, satan tempts us too. We are commanded to be **sober-minded** and **watchful**. Our adversary, the devil, “prowls like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

Our enemies are not flesh and blood but rulers and authorities of evil - satan. Spiritual warfare is real. Consequently, we need the full armor of God to stand up to the battle.

#### **Discuss:**

1. **Spiritual Warfare:** Ephesians 6 says we do not “wrestle against flesh and blood” but instead “against the cosmic powers over this present darkness” and “against the spiritual forces of evil”. Discuss the reality of spiritual warfare, it’s effects and the tools we are equipped. Discuss each weapon and the protection it provides.
2. **Temptation:** The devil is a tempter and accuser. Temptations are lies. Do you take temptation lightly? Temptation is the sneaky left hand to set up. Accusation is the right hand that knocks you out. Do you feel temptation in your life currently? How can you anticipate temptation? And what defenses do you have to resist?
3. **Advocate:** The Holy spirit is a helper and comforter. Jesus is our advocate in the presence of God. Remember Jude 1:24-25. The Gospel is what satan fears most. Discuss your understanding of being righteous and knowing Jesus is your advocate.
4. **Scripture:** Memorizing scripture is the means by which Jesus defeated satan when being tempted. Challenge yourself and the group to memorize scripture. Start now with Ephesians 6:10-18. Memorize the beautiful doxology in Jude. Recite the hymn on the next page together.

#### **Conclusion/Application:**

Father, remind us daily of your sovereignty over sin and evil. Give us eyes to see and hearts to discern the deceitful lurking of the enemy in our lives. May we anticipate these temptations and rely on prayer and scripture to defeat the spiritual forces of darkness.

Thank you for the Holy Spirit that offers guidance, protection and advocacy. Please help us be bold to say to one another – “Jesus died for your sins so that you may be set free from the burden of sin and death and inherit eternal life”.

**By: Blake Thompson**

## English Standard Version (ESV)

### Ephesians 6:10-18

**10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **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. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. **14** Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, **15** and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. **16** In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; **17** and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, **18** praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

### Luke 10:1, 17-20

**1** After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

**17** The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!" **18** And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **19** Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. **20** Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

### His be the Victor's Name

His be the Victor's Name  
Who fought the fight alone;  
Triumphant saints no honor claim;  
Their conquest was His own.

By weakness and defeat  
He won the reed and crown;  
Trode all the foes beneath His feet  
By being trodden down.

He hell in hell laid low;  
Made sin, He sin o'erthrew;  
Bowed to the grave, destroyed it so,  
And death, by dying, slew.

What tho' the' accuser roar  
Of ills that I have done;  
I know them well, and thousands more;  
Jehovah findeth none.

Bless, bless the Conqu'ror slain,  
Slain by divine decree!  
Who lived, who died, who lives again,  
For thee, my soul, for thee.