Spiritual Warfare
Teaching Outlines

Equipping for Ministry
Spiritual Warfare, Teaching Outlines, Equipping for Ministry

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NOTE: In the interest of editorial brevity and simplicity, these documents treat gender-neutral and gender-plural references with the masculine pronoun “he” rather than “she,” “he or she” or other constructions. When clarity is better served by other words, we follow whatever usage seems to aid readers best. Worldwide Discipleship Association follows Scripture in joyfully recognizing that God created man and woman in His image as equal recipients of His grace and mercy.

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IMPORTANT NOTE TO LEADER: After each Teaching Outline there is a page entitled “Interactive Question.” These are written to stimulate a discussion of the outline’s content without the need for a group leader. If you choose to use the Interactive Questions, it is suggested that you divide your group into groups of 3-4 for the discussion.
Leader’s Instructions For Using Teaching Outlines

These four Teaching Outlines, about Spiritual Warfare give the growing Christian a beginning understanding of the person and role of Satan in the world and in the everyday life of a Christian.

Teaching Outlines cover the subject content and are designed to be given in a lecture format (with Interactive Questions at the end). It is suggested that the Pocket Principle™ that corresponds to an Outline be given to students to read, after the Teaching Outline is presented. This will help reinforce the truths and application.

Target Audiences of the Teaching Outlines

There are two audiences: 1) Pastor/teacher and lay teachers who have the gifts, ability and experience to teach, and 2) Believers who want to learn the concepts in the Teaching Outlines. The outlines are written as a guide so that the teacher will know what material to cover. They are not designed to be given to the students.

Purpose of Teaching Outlines and Interactive Questions

- To provide a framework of content for teacher and student
- To allow the teacher to be creative and engaging in presentation (add illustrations, etc.)
- To provide questions designed to stimulate a discussion about the outline’s content

Format of the Outlines

At the beginning of each Outline are three headings: Subject, Theme and Proposition. These first 3 parts of the format are specifically for the teacher, not the student. They are included to show the leader how the Outlines are organized. The Transition is designed to help the leader move from the introduction to the first main point of the lesson.

Although an emphasis of these outlines is the communication of content, the goal of building disciples is transformation into Christlikeness! It is not enough to hear and study the truth. It must be applied and lived! For this reason we include Interactive Questions based on the information in the Outline that you may choose to use with your students.

Caution: Often as teachers (and as mature believers) we want to teach our disciples everything we know about a subject. This may be a major mistake. It has been likened to giving a person a drink from an open fire hydrant: the amount and force of the water interferes with quenching thirst. Sometimes by being taught too much at one time, students learn little.
The Great Spiritual Battle

SUBJECT: Battle
THEME: Spiritual Battle
PROPOSITION: The world is the setting of a great spiritual battle.

Introduction: It is not just your imagination when life seems difficult. You are in a spiritual battle.

A. There is a great battle raging between good and evil.
   1. This battle is difficult to recognize at times because evil presents itself as good.
   2. It is also difficult to recognize because part of the battle is in the seen world (the realm of our physical senses) and part of the battle is in the unseen world (the invisible spiritual realm).
   3. Illustration: God opens the eyes of Elisha’s servant (II Kings 6:8-18).

B. Paul tells believers that their real battle is not against flesh and blood but against evil supernatural forces of darkness (Ephesians 6:12).
   1. This battle is ongoing and will not end until God chooses to end it at the return of Christ.
   2. Therefore, believers, as a part of the army of God, need to learn all they can about their enemy and how to fight effectively (Ephesians 6:10-11).

Transition: The world is the setting for a great spiritual battle between two powerful kingdoms.

I. Satan and His Kingdom

A. Satan leads a powerful evil kingdom that opposes God and His people.
   1. Satan was a very powerful angel of God who became prideful, wanting to be like God (Ezekiel 28:11-15; Isaiah 14:12-14).
      a. Ezekiel is probably talking about two persons at the same time: the King of Tyre and a powerful spiritual being created by God and put in a high and special position as a guardian cherub, Satan.
      b. Isaiah describes Satan’s fall and banishment from heaven.
   2. He deceived one third of the other angels and led an unsuccessful rebellion against God in heaven (Revelation 12:1-9).
      a. The reference to one third of the stars (v. 4) may be a reference to one third of all the angels.
b. Verses 7-9 describe the great battle in which Satan and his angels were defeated by the archangel Michael and his angels. Satan and his angels were thrown out of heaven.

B. Satan’s nature is described by the following words and phrases used in Scripture.
1. Abbaden and Appollyon which means “destroyer” (Revelation 9:11)
2. The accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10)
3. The enemy (I Peter 5:8)
4. The deceiver of the whole world (Revelation 12:9)
5. The evil one (Matthew 13:19, 38)
6. The father of lies (John 8:44) and a liar (John 8:44)
7. The god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4)
8. A murderer (John 8:44)
9. The tempter (Matthew 4:3; I Thessalonians 3:5)

C. Satan’s kingdom is composed of Satan as its King, demons as his loyal servants, unbelievers as his unwitting servants, and the world as his playground.
1. Satan, who is not omnipresent, makes his influence almost worldwide through his hierarchy of subordinates (Ephesians 6:12; Colossians 2:15).
   (Note: To the Jews and early Christians these listings represent a chain of command and authority of angels, both good and bad.)
2. The self-centered ambitions of the nations, the deceptive practices of politics, the bitter rivalry of commerce, the false religions of the world, broken relationships, fractured families and personal traumas all spring from and are fostered by Satanic influence.

II. Christ and His Kingdom

A. Christ came to this world to rescue us from the clutches of Satan, to save us from our sins, and to set up His Kingdom (Colossians 1:13-14).
1. His Kingdom is composed of Christ as King and Christians as His subjects.
2. Christ’s Kingdom is invisible to the world in that it is in the hearts of believers as the Holy Spirit indwells them. It is visible to the world in the godly conduct and character of believers.

B. Christ was continually involved in a spiritual battle, both direct and indirect.
1. King Herod, upon hearing stories of the birth of the Messiah, the King of Israel, ordered the death of all Jewish children in Bethlehem under the age of two (Matthew 2:13-17).
3. Throughout Jesus’ ministry, He cast demons out of people, healing them of diseases and other problems (e.g. Luke 4:40-41).
4. The blindness of the Jewish leaders in spite of the many miraculous signs that Jesus performed, their rejection of Him as the Messiah and their plots to kill Him were all evidences of spiritual battle (II Corinthians 4:3-4).

C. Believers are transferred out of Satan’s domain and into Christ’s Kingdom at the time of their salvation (Colossians 1:13-14).
   1. However, believers are not transferred out of this world, so they remain vulnerable to Satan’s influence and attacks.
   2. God has brought believers into His Kingdom to deliver them from darkness and bondage, but also to equip them as warriors in His Kingdom (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Conclusion: Believers need to understand that the world is dangerous because of the evil influences of Satan and his kingdom. However, the good news is that Christ has not only rescued them from Satan’s kingdom, He is also able to help them navigate through difficulties and impact this world for good.

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Spiritual Warfare #1
The Great Spiritual Battle

INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS

1) What are some of the differences between Satan and God?

2) What are some of the ways you see Satan’s influence in the world?

3) In Scripture, Satan is known as “the accuser of the brethren,” “the father of lies,” and a “tempter.” Describe how you see Satan living up to these names in your life.

4) How does Colossians 1:13-14 give you hope, even in the midst of a battle with Satan?