THE CHALLENGES AHEAD Message by Todd Lester

January 8, 2017

1 Timothy 6:12a Fight the good fight for the true faith. Ephesians 6:12, Romans 7:22-23
THREE BATTLES YOU'LL FACE THIS YEAR 1. THE BATTLE BETWEEN AND James 4:1-2a, Philippians 2:3-4
2. THE BATTLE BETWEEN AND Hebrews 12:15b, Ephesians 4:26, Matthew 7:2
3. THE BATTLE BETWEEN WHAT'S AND WHAT'S Galatians 5:17, Galatians 6:9
THE WEAPONS THAT WIN 2 Corinthians 10:3-4
WEAPON ONE:FROM GOD'S Ephesians 6:16, Romans 10:17, Ephesians 6:17b
WEAPON TWO: FROM GOD'S Hebrews 10:25, Ecclesiastes 4:12
WEAPON THREE: FROM GOD'S 1 John 4:4, Ephesians 6:13, 2 Timothy 4:7
Spend more time: in God's, with God's, and trusting God's

Bible Books Battleship

	A	В	C	D	E	F	G	Н	I	J	K	L	M	N	0	P	Q	R	S	Т	U	V
1	W	W	В	X	R	G	N	N	М	T	X	Н	N	G	M	W	A	R	L	X	D	R
2	R	V	Н	A	1	N	A	Н	P	E	Z	В	A	U	Q	Т	М	w	R	S	K	E
3	1	н	Q	G	М	М	٧	P	s	A	L	М	S	G	М	w	0	C	М	1	U	Н
4	С	L	N	В	N	Z	E	C	Н	A	R	1	A	Н	G	В	S	C	K	S	K	Т
5	н	E	1	S	E	G	D	U	J	Y	D	X	2	В	L	A	E	D	R	E	K	s
6	R	U	S	М	Н	Q	N	1	N	Н	E	н	T	K	E	w	1	R	N	N	A	E
7	0	М	A	N	٧	N	Н	J	G	0	U	P	1	K	1	N	G	s	s	E	В	V
8	N	A	1	M	J	C	0	R	В	R	T	Y	D	P	N	N	Т	н	A	G	A	X
9	1	s	A	G	A	S	Н	A	N	T	E	Н	K	Z	A	F	G	E	R	K	н	C
10	C	1	Н	L	Н	L	D	N	D	N	R	C	z	X	D	Y	s	S	L	М	L	K
11	L	В	Α	U	X	1	S	0	N	G	0	F	s	0	L	0	M	0	N	2	М	G
12	E	M	A	C	A	A	R	Z	E	M	N	D	V	N	Н	K	F	R	C	K	L	K
13	S	G	K	Н	N	R	K	N	N	M	0	P	R	P	Т	M	В	H	L	N	s	Y
14	W	s	N	0	1	T	A	T	N	E	M	A	L	P	R	M	R	E	N	U	٧	J
15	D	В	K	Н	A	N	0	J	Q	J	Y	H	X	X	В	0	U	J	D	P	E	P
16	F	Q	L	E	٧	1	Т	1	C	U	S	T	A	0	N	М	٧	0	0	R	X	Ν
17	z	Н	R	E	N	Y	Н	Т	М	M	M	٧	J	1	A	В	X	E	E	E	Υ	Q
18	Т	Н	A	P	1	Y	٧	K	U	T	В	X	C	S	M	E	R	M	R	Х	L	N
19	C	М	Т	C	G	K	D	C	Н	L	Н	L	2	٧	М	E	1	P	T	В	K	Т
20	Q	Y	L	U	1	G	E	K	A	L	E	R	Q	C	٧	A	Н	٧	X	X	S	Т
21	R	Z	C	Т	R	М	L	Z	N	S	F	K	X	N	Н	W	J	E	C	K	K	X
22	J	N	J	F	E	C	C	L	Ε	S	1	A	S	T	E	S	R	W	N	T	Н	K
V6.				_		NE	НЕ	MI	ΑH		М1					_	_	()BA	NDI.	ΑH	
M1	7			_		PR	.OV	ER	BS		R15	5_				_	_	F	PSA	LM	S	
H15	5			_		ZE	CHA	ARI.	ΑH		P18	3_				_	_	J	0SI	HU	A	
I12				_		ΕZ	EK	EL			K2					_	_	J	UD	GE:	S	
E21	L					LE	VIT	'ICI	JS								_	N	ИIC	ΑH		
Q1						2 F	ΚIN	GS									_	(GEN	IES	IS	
L1 _						ISA	ΑIA	Н			V14	1				_	_	F	30F	SEA	L	
M7						DA	NI	EL										F	IAE	BAK	KKU	K
M1	9						SO	NG	OF	SO	LO	ΜO	N	M	14						_	
K5																						
Т11																						

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Sermon by Todd Lester

January 8, 2017

1 Timothy 6:12a Fight the good fight for the true faith.

Ephesians 6:12 For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Romans 7:22-23 I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

THREE BATTLES YOU'LL FACE THIS YEAR

1. THE BATTLE BETWEEN LOVE AND SELFISHNESS

<u>James 4:1-2a</u> What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them... <u>Philippians 2:3-4</u> Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

2. THE BATTLE BETWEEN FORGIVENESS AND BITTERNESS

<u>Hebrews 12:15b</u> ... Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

Ephesians 4:26 And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry.

<u>Matthew 7:2</u> For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.

3. THE BATTLE BETWEEN WHAT'S EASY AND WHAT'S RIGHT

Galatians 5:17 The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. Galatians 6:9 So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

THE WEAPONS THAT WIN

 $\underline{2}$ Corinthians $\underline{10:3-4}$ We are human, but we don't wage war as humans do. We use God's mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments.

WEAPON ONE: FAITH FROM GOD'S WORD

<u>Ephesians 6:16</u> In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.

 $\underline{\text{Romans } 10:17}$ So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

Ephesians 6:17b ... take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

WEAPON TWO: SUPPORT FROM GOD'S PEOPLE

<u>Hebrews 10:25</u> And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another...

<u>Ecclesiastes 4:12</u> A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

WEAPON THREE: POWER FROM GOD'S SPIRIT

 $\underline{1}$ John $\underline{4:4}$... The Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

Ephesians 6:13 Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.

Spend more time: in God's \underline{Word} with God's \underline{people} and trusting God's \underline{Spirit}

Bible Books Battleship Answers

```
V6 ESTHER S22 NEHEMIAH M1 NUMBERS 17 OBADIAH
M17 _JOB___ N13 PROVERBS R15 _JOEL_
                                       H3 PSALMS
H15 _JONAH_ F4 ZECHARIAH P18 _EXODUS__
                                      H7 JOSHUA
I12 EZRA_
                        I22 EZEKIEL
E21_RUTH_ C16 LEVITICUS B12_MALACHI_
                                       F21 MICAH
Q1 _AMOS_ M5 2 KINGS
                        I21 __NAHUM__
                                       T8 GENESIS
L1 HAGGAI C5 ISAIAH
                        V14 JEREMIAH 012 HOSEA
M7_1 KINGS__ O10 DANIEL
                        A3 _1 CHRONICLES_ U9 HABAKKUK
M19 _2 SAMUEL__ G11 SONG OF SOLOMON M14 LAMENTATIONS_
K5 __DEUTERONOMY___ B10 1 SAMUEL
                                 E22 _ECCLESIASTES__
T11 2 CHRONICLES
```

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Sermon by Todd Lester

January 8, 2017

Icebreaker/Introduction

The 'Bible Books Battleship' activity relates to the theme of battle which Todd began with, along with his challenge for us to get to know God's Word. This puzzle is just a variation on a word search – the columns with coordinates in front of a blank are spots in the grid where an answer can be found (eg. V6 is an E and if you look up the column it spells ESTHER). The columns with Bible book names are harder as you must find that word in the puzzle and then give the coordinate for the first letter. (the answers are included on the Scriptures page)

This puzzle would take quite a while to complete. Give as much time as you want but don't expect anyone to finish (assign as homework?)

Ask if there was anything from this week's message that stood out – either a point that was made which really resonated with them, or perhaps a question or difficulty that came up for them.

Discuss Todd's statement "anything worthwhile in your life you have to fight for." Do you often think of life as a battle? Do you feel that it is helpful to think this way or may it be too negative? (for example, do you wake up in the morning thinking 'here I go to face another day of struggle' or thankful?

Read Romans 7:15-25. What aspects of this passage can you identify with?

THREE BATTLES YOU'LL FACE THIS YEAR

1. THE BATTLE BETWEEN LOVE AND SELFISHNESS

Focuses on James 4:1-2a, Philippians 2:3-4

Give an example of a time you chose to be unselfish. What was the result?

Do you think humility is valued in our world? Who is someone that you consider humble? On a scale of 1 (a little) to 10 (a lot) how often do you feel that you think about others?

2. THE BATTLE BETWEEN FORGIVENESS AND BITTERNESS

Focuses on Hebrews 12:15b, Ephesians 4:26, Matthew 7:2

Do you have long term hurts that still affect you? Is Todd's statement that we don't actually have to hold on to hurts helpful? Do you find Todd's definition of anger as simply a response to fear, frustration or pain to be accurate?

Do you ever go to bed upset?

3. THE BATTLE BETWEEN WHAT'S EASY AND WHAT'S RIGHT

Focuses on Galatians 5:17, Galatians 6:9

Can you recall the 2 reasons that Todd gave for why our old nature often seems to win over our new nature? (he talked about simple fatigue with the example of parenting, and also our inability to delay gratification) Do these make sense to you? Can you think of other reasons why it can seem challenging to follow our new nature?

What is there in your life that you would like to fight for in 2017? (Todd mentioned these examples: better health, closer walk with God, great marriage, strong kids, spiritual growth, get out of debt, hope over despair, victory over fears, authenticity)

THE WEAPONS THAT WIN

2 Corinthians 10:3-4

WEAPON ONE: FAITH FROM GOD'S WORD

Focuses on Ephesians 6:16, Romans 10:17, Ephesians 6:17b

Have you ever read through the whole Bible? The whole New Testament? The 4 Gospels? Would any of these be a good goal for 2017? Do you agree with Todd's statement that 'the more I read the Word of God, the more faith I'm going to have'? Does it depend on how we read the Bible?

WEAPON TWO: SUPPORT FROM GOD'S PEOPLE

Focuses on Hebrews 10:25, Ecclesiastes 4:12

How important to you is attending church on Sunday mornings? Why?

If someone asked you why you go to House Church, what would you say? Is there someone you could encourage to check out your House Church group? How will you approach them?

WEAPON THREE: POWER FROM GOD'S SPIRIT

Focuses on 1 John 4:4, Ephesians 6:13, 2 Timothy 4:7

Todd reminded us that 'God is in control.' How easy or difficult is it for you to see this? How does this relate to the beginning ideas about the challenging battle which life involves?

Have there been specific times in your life when you have felt empowered by God's Spirit? Do you think that it needs to be accompanied by dramatic feelings or circumstances?

Spend more time: in God's Word with God's people and trusting God's Spirit

Todd encouraged us to spend more time in God's Word, more time with God's people, and more time trusting God's Spirit. The first two of these seem quite concrete, but how can we practically apply the third idea? (would prayer be a good concrete example?)

A note on the Bible reading plan attachment – this is a good resource to offer to group members for tracking their Bible reading. It allows them to go at their own pace but gives them a place to check off every chapter that they read. It may take them a number of years to get to everything but it will hopefully motivate them to try. Or encourage them to start with just the New Testament or the 4 Gospels.

I suggest printing it at 70%, 2-sided, on heavier paper so that it can become a large bookmark to put into a Bible. If you'd like help with that feel free to contact me at terrykreutzkamp@westheights.org

THE **OLD** TESTAMENT

GENESIS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

EXODUS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

LEVITICUS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27			

NUN	IBE	RS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	

DEU	TER	ONO	MY	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34		

JOSI	HUA		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			

JUD	GES		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21						

RUTH 1 2 3 4

1 S/	AMU	EL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31						

2 SA	\MU	EL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			

1 KI	NGS		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22					

2 KI	NGS		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		

1 Cł	łROI	VICL	ES	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29							

2 Cł	IROI	VICL	ES	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36

EZRA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
MITH	FMI	٨١١	1	0	0	4	_	0	
NEH	LIVII	AH	1	2	3	4	5	6	/
8	9	10	11	12	13				

ESTHER

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10				

JOB		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
39	40	41	42						

PSALMS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150

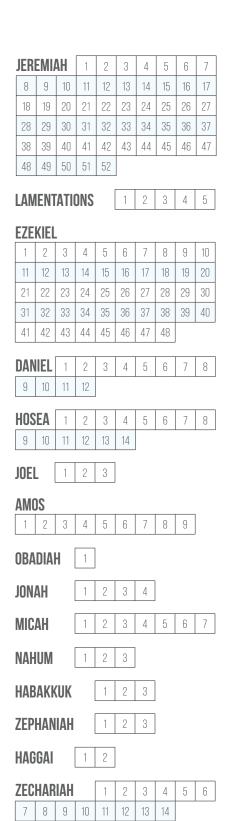
PRO	VER	BS		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31					

ECC	LES	IAST	ES	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12				

SONG OF SOLOMON

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

ISAI	AH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58
59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66		



MALACHI

1 2

3 4

THE **NEW** TESTAMENT

									L
MΔ	THE	-14/							
IVIA 1	2	3 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
MAI	RK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
								J	
LUK	Ε	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24				
JOH	N	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21							
ACT	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
RUN	/ANS	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
1.00	אומי		ANC						J
1 6	ORIN 2	3	ANS 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	,			
ე <u></u>	ORIN	тш	ANS		1	, 	3	1	5
6	7 7	8	HIVO 9	10	1 11	12	13	4)
0	/	0	J	10	11	IZ.	IJ		
GAL	ATI/	ANS		1	2	3	4	5	6
EPH	EPHESIANS				2	3	4	5	6
ייוום					0	3	Л]	
rnii	PHILIPPIANS				2	J	4		
COL	088	IAN:	S	1	2	3	4		

J / \	V II	_	I 1	ı			
1 THESSALO	ONIA	NS					
1 2 3	4	5					
2 THESSALO	ONIA	NS	1	2	3		
1 TIMOTHY	1	2	3	4	5	6	
2 TIMOTHY	1	2	3	4			
TITUS 1	2	3					
PHILEMON	1						
HEBREWS		1	2	3	4	5	6
7 8 9	10	11	12	13			
JAMES	1	2	3	4	5		
1 PETER	1	2	3	4	5		
2 PETER	1	2	3				
1 JOHN	1	2	3	4	5		
2 JOHN	1						
3 JOHN	1						
JUDE	1						
DEVEL ATIO	NI.	1	0	0	1	Е	0

REVELATION			1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22				