

Study Guide for April 5th
Growing in Greater Intimacy with Jesus – Spring 2020
Spiritual Warfare towards Freedom
• Genesis 3:1-7/Matt 4:1-11/Romans 8:1-4

Remember the goal of our study: The goal of our study is to know and understand our **beliefs** which issue into **behaviors** (habits) that cause us to grow to **become** like Jesus.

- (Adapted from *"Experiencing God's story of Life and Hope"* by Scott Duvall)

Summary: Because things are Not the way it's supposed to be by God's design, there is an evil in this world at which we are at war. We do wage war, war against a defeated enemy. We trust in our God who is still working out His good plans and purposes to their completion. As we engage in the battle, we are learning to stand in God's victory awaiting the fulfilling of His purposes in Christ Jesus.

Not the Way it's supposed to be - *Gen 3:1-7*

Satan and sin

BELIEVING

A Closer look at Genesis 3:1-7

Note the change when Eve and Adam eat the fruit. In Gen 2:25 – *"they felt no shame"- they were completely comfortable in being with one another.*

In Gen 3:1-7 - *"took some and ate it";*

Note the pattern of temptation to evil from Satan. The Goal to deceive through lies

What do you see imbedded in Satan's question *"Did God really say?"*

How did Eve ascribe to God things he really did not say?

What do these verses reveal about the serpent's strategy?

What happens when they eat of the fruit? See verse 7. *"Then both their eyes were opened"*

Discuss what this means to the relationship between them and their God? What happens to their relationship and what do they do in response to their eyes being opened?

Consider/Reflect/Discuss:

What does the bible say about the fruits appeal to Eve?

Identify the steps to sin in verse 6.

What do we learn about the nature of Satan in these verses? What do we learn about God?

Our struggle is not against flesh and blood

Waging spiritual war

BEHAVING

- The road to heaven is a battle.

A Closer Look at Matthew 4:1-11

Part of the battle is understanding our enemy... What do we learn about the devil and Jesus?

How does thinking of the road to Heaven as "a battle" impact your daily walk?

What does it mean that the devil's power is external and coercive, and God's power is internal and noncoercive?

Consider/Reflect/Discuss:

What similarities do you see between the devil's strategy with Adam and Eve and Jesus?

What human desires does Satan uses to tempt Jesus?

What other weapons do you see Jesus using to avoid the trap of the devil besides the Word of God?

Free at last free at last

Freedom

Becoming

As we engage in the battle, we are learning to stand in God's victory and freedom.

A Closer look at Matthew Romans 8:1-4

Why is there no condemnation for us?

Why can't the law set us free from sin?

What did God do to set us free from sin?

Consider/Reflect/Discuss:

What is God's goal in setting you free from sin and death?

Do you struggle in forgiving yourself from your sins?

What is one practical step you can take to live in freedom rather than bondage?

For the Pastor, *please consider these 2 discussion questions. I welcome feedback.*

- What can the church do to help you to live free from condemnation?
- Do you feel this study is helping you grow to be free from the law of sin? What are some ways the pastor and church might help you grow in these areas?