

TACTICS

> WINNING THE BATTLE FOR TRUTH <
— IN AN AGE OF DECEPTION —

A 13-WEEK DEVOTIONAL FIELD GUIDE



RECOGNIZE DECEPTION. | THINK BIBLICALLY. | STAND CONFIDENTLY. | LIVE ON MISSION.

★
ROCKFISH CHURCH RESOURCE

TACTICS: WEEK 4

THE DIVIDE

Stay alert to the enemy's subtle work of dividing believers; offense can quietly weaken what persecution could not destroy.

MISSION BRIEF

One of Satan's most effective tactics is not attacking the church from the outside, but dividing believers from the inside. What he cannot destroy through persecution, he often attempts to destroy through offense.

TRAINING OBJECTIVE

Recognize the progression of offense, respond biblically to conflict, and become a peacemaker rather than a participant in division.

Read: Luke 22:24-34

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

Satan divides what he cannot defeat.

Week Four Battle Rhythm:

Day	Focus	Question
1	Objective + Tactics	How does the enemy use division to destroy from within?
2	Terrain	Be aware of the trap of offense.
3	Training	Eliminate the hurt of offense before it becomes bitterness.
4	Rules of Engagement	Let forgiveness be the weapon of choice.
5	Unit Cohesion + Mission	Advance the kingdom of God as a peacemaker.

Hebrews 12:14-15 (NIV) ¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵ See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

DAY 1 | REMEMBER: *What Did We Learn?*

OBJECTIVE

RECONNECT

Satan divides what he cannot defeat.

The enemy knows that a unified church is an unstoppable force for the Kingdom. If he cannot stop the mission of the church, he will relentlessly attack the relationships that make the mission possible.

Selfish ambition and vain conceit are the primary tools he uses to create division. When we focus entirely on our own interests, we naturally find ourselves at odds with others. However, when we serve the local church and volunteer our God-given talents, we build a wall of unity that the enemy cannot breach.

TACTICS

The enemy attacks our sense of justice to divide and defeat unity in the church.

REFOCUS

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- **What is the Key Truth?** Where do you see division weakening local churches today through selfish ambition?
- How does volunteering your time and talents to serve others actively protect the church from the enemy's attacks?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Look at your church's website and find one area where volunteers are needed. Sign up to serve, placing the interests of the church above your own schedule.

RETURN

Father, protect my heart from selfish ambition. Show me where I can use the talents You have given me to serve Your church. Build a spirit of unity within my local body of believers that the enemy cannot divide. Amen.

DAY 2 | EXAMINE: *What Does This Reveal?*

TERRAIN

RECONNECT

Being offended is unavoidable, but living offended is a choice that slowly reshapes the heart. Offense often begins as a wound, but when it is rehearsed, protected, or justified, it becomes a snare that quietly imprisons us. What may start as hurt can grow into resentment, suspicion, bitterness, and eventually division. If it is not surrendered to God, offense will convince us to pull away from people we are called to love and serve.

When we fail to value others above ourselves, we become hyper-sensitive to how we are treated and quick to interpret disappointment as rejection. Serving the church shifts our focus outward and reminds us that the mission is bigger than our personal preferences, wounds, or expectations.

Humility makes room for grace, and grace makes room for unity. It is incredibly difficult to remain offended by someone when you are actively working alongside them in humility to advance God's Kingdom.

REFOCUS

Proverbs 18:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ A brother wronged is more unyielding than a fortified city;
disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel.

*Unresolved offense leads to division, but serving in
humility sets us free from the trap.*

RESPOND >>>>

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- What does this reveal about me? Why is it often easier for you to hold onto an offense than it is to release it through humility?
- What have I misunderstood? How does focusing strictly on your own interests feed feelings of self-pity and victimhood?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Identify someone in church or life who has offended you. Find a quiet, anonymous way to serve them or bless them today, breaking the trap of selfishness through an act of humility.

Looking to the interests of others prevents us from dwelling on our own hurts, helping us avoid the trap of selfishness.

RETURN >>>>

Lord God, reveal any selfishness I have fallen into. Give me the mind of Christ, that I might value others above myself. Teach me to serve those who have hurt me, replacing my resentment with Your love. Amen.

DAY 3 | PRACTICE: *What Needs To Change?*

EQUIPMENT

RECONNECT

Bitterness hurts the person who carries it most because it keeps the wound alive after the original offense has passed. It can masquerade as justice, convincing us that resentment protects us or proves the hurt mattered. But bitterness is not protection; it is bondage. Like a root beneath the surface, it grows quietly, shaping our thoughts, words, worship, and how we interpret others.

When bitterness remains unchecked, it distorts our perspective. We begin seeing disagreement as disrespect, correction as rejection, and unmet expectations as proof that people do not care. This is why the enemy isolates us in our hurt. When we hoard our time and talents out of vain conceit, bitterness grows because our focus stays on what we feel owed rather than what God calls us to give.

One practical way to uproot bitterness is to reengage in humble service. When we dedicate our gifts to the local church, we stop feeding offense and begin filling our lives with God-given purpose. Serving does not deny pain, but it refuses to let pain command our hearts. As we choose obedience, humility, and love, bitterness loses the ground it used to grow.

REFOCUS

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ⁴ not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

*Vain conceit breeds bitterness. Using our talents to
elevate others brings true joy and protects our
hearts.*

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- How has unresolved bitterness affected your desire to serve or volunteer in the past?
- What habit has gotten in the way? What God-given talent are you holding back from the church because you are looking only to your own interests?

ACTION STEP:

Take a spiritual gifts assessment online or ask a mature believer what they see as your greatest talent. Commit to using that specific gift to benefit your local church this month.

RETURN

Jesus, forgive me for the times I have allowed bitterness to take root in my heart. I surrender my time and my talents to You. Help me to use what You have given me to build up Your church and bring You glory. Amen.

*Bitterness distorts our worship and relationships;
serving the church restores our perspective.*

DAY 4 | ENGAGE: *How Does This Prepare Me?*

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

RECONNECT

Forgiveness is powerful because Scripture connects it to spiritual warfare. It is not pretending a wound did not matter or excusing what was wrong. Forgiveness is choosing not to let the wound control your heart, shape your reactions, or divide the church.

Unforgiveness gives the enemy room to work. When we rehearse the offense, hold onto our anger, or wait for retaliation, we keep the door cracked open for bitterness, suspicion, and division. Forgiveness slams that door shut by surrendering justice to God and refusing to become a partner in the enemy's strategy.

Philippians warns us that holding a grudge can become a hidden form of spiritual selfishness. It keeps our pain at the center and makes our desire for vindication more important than the unity of the body. Forgiveness moves our focus from self-protection to obedience.

When we forgive, we fight back. We place the spiritual health of the church above our personal desire to be proven right. Forgiveness does not make us weak; it makes us disciplined, humble, and dangerous to the enemy's schemes.

REFOCUS

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

*Holding a grudge is the ultimate form of
spiritual selfishness.*

RESPOND

AFTER ACTION REVIEW:

- **How does this affect my family?** How does modeling humility and forgiveness protect your home from the enemy's divisive tactics?
- **How does this affect my job and personal life?** Why is forgiveness ultimately an act of trust in God rather than relying on your own selfish ambition?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Before initiating a conversation, write down the name of one fellow believer you need to approach with humility. Then make a short list of what you need to confess, forgive, clarify, or release before that conversation. Pray over the list and ask God to help you seek restoration instead of trying to prove you are right.

RETURN

Father, I choose to forgive because You first forgave me. I refuse to let unforgiveness create division in Your church. Give me the humility to lay down my pride and fight for unity. Amen.

*Unforgiveness gives the enemy a foothold;
forgiveness closes the door and protects the body of
Christ.*

DAY 5 | MULTIPLY: *Who Else Needs This?*

UNIT COHESION

RECONNECT

Peacemakers advance the Kingdom because they refuse to let conflict become the end of the story. Jesus did not call us to merely avoid tension or pretend disagreement does not exist; He called us to pursue reconciliation with truth, humility, and love. Biblical peace is not silence, distance, or conflict avoidance. It is the presence of restored relationships that reflect the heart of Christ.

A healthy church is not one without conflict, but one that handles conflict biblically while continuing to serve side by side. Division grows when believers withdraw, gossip, assume the worst, or protect their own pride. Unity grows when believers are willing to listen, forgive, clarify, and keep the mission above personal preference. Peacemaking is active spiritual work, not passive niceness.

As we volunteer our time and work together to steward the Gospel, we train ourselves and others to value people above pride. Every act of humble service becomes a witness against the enemy's strategy of isolation and offense. When we choose reconciliation, encourage one another, and invite others back into community, we help strengthen the body of Christ and multiply peace beyond ourselves.

REFOCUS

Matthew 18:15-17 (NIV)

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Peacemakers look to the interests of others.

RESPOND

BATTLEFIELD ASSESSMENT (Responding to Conflict)

Equip yourself and others to evaluate their response to conflict.

Before responding, ask:

- Am I reacting from hurt or responding with wisdom?
- Have I gone directly to the person before talking to others?
- Am I seeking restoration or simply being proven right?
- What response best reflects the character of Christ?

ACTION STEP / DAILY CHALLENGE:

Write down the Four Questions Before Responding to Conflict and place them somewhere visible. The next time you face friction while serving, use these questions to guide your response.

RETURN

Lord Jesus, make me a peacemaker. Teach me to value others above myself in every interaction. Use my time, my talents, and my humility to build a strong, unified church that advances Your Kingdom. Amen.