

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 1

THERE IS A WAR



The greatest battles in life are often invisible before they become visible. Until we recognize the spiritual nature of the conflict, we will continue fighting spiritual problems with physical solutions.

MISSION BRIEF

Week One reveals our enemy's chief tactic and sets the tone for the series. Elisha's servant saw a city surrounded by an army. Elisha saw the same danger, but he also saw the greater reality of God's presence. Faith did not deny the threat; it interpreted the threat correctly.

TRAINING OBJECTIVE

Recognize when a struggle may be primarily spiritual rather than merely circumstantial.

Read: 2 Kings 6:8-23

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

REMEMBER

The greatest battles may not be the most obvious battles.

Week One Battle Rhythm:

Day	Focus	Question
1	Objective + Tactics	What is the enemy seeking, and how does he work?
2	Terrain	Where is the battle, and where am I vulnerable?
3	Equipment	What has God already provided?
4	Rules of Engagement	How should I respond?
5	Unit Cohesion + Mission	How do we stand and advance together?

2 Kings 6:15-17 (NIV) When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked. ¹⁶ "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

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

OBJECTIVE

RECONNECT

The greatest battles in life are often invisible before they become visible. Until we recognize the spiritual nature of the conflict, we will continue fighting spiritual problems with physical solutions.

The devil isn't working at random. He wants to weaken our trust in God, twist the truth, divide relationships, and draw us away from Christ. He often starts with misdirection, using conflict, fatigue, temptation, discouragement, or fear to distract us from the real battle.

When we treat people as the enemy, we waste our energy fighting symptoms while the real lie goes unchallenged.

TACTICS

Our enemy deceives us by making the visible problem look bigger and hiding the spiritual one. Pressure turns into panic, disagreement into hostility, and weariness into hopelessness.

If we fight only what we can see, we may miss what's really *driving* the battle.

REFOCUS

1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

The enemy often wins ground by convincing us to fight the wrong battle.

RESPOND

ASK YOURSELF:

- What visible problem has occupied most of my attention?
- Who have I begun to treat as the enemy?
- What lie may be shaping my response?

ACTION STEP:

Name one struggle and identify the spiritual outcome the enemy may be seeking.

Struggle:

"I'm in ongoing conflict with someone in my family, and every conversation seems to make things worse."

Spiritual outcome the enemy may be seeking:

"To turn hurt into resentment, convince me that the other person is the enemy, and pull me toward anger, isolation, or unforgiveness."

The exercise could be written this way:

"The visible struggle is family conflict. The deeper spiritual danger is that I may become bitter, stop praying, and respond in ways that do not reflect Christ."

The point is not to blame every conflict on the devil. It is to notice what spiritual damage the conflict could produce if it is handled poorly.

RETURN

Father, help me to see the way you see. Open my heart and eyes to the truth. In Jesus' name.

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

TERRAIN

RECONNECT

Terrain includes thoughts, emotions, habits, relationships, disappointments, and desires. The enemy looks for places where fatigue, fear, pride, isolation, or pain have reduced our visibility.

Elisha's servant saw the army but not the whole picture. Fear narrowed his vision until the danger looked larger than God.

Faith does not pretend the army is gone. Faith sees the army and remembers who surrounds it.

REFOCUS

2 Kings 6:16-17

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

What you don't see CAN hurt you.

RESPOND

ASK YOURSELF:

- Where am I tired, isolated, offended, ashamed, or afraid?
- Is there a circumstance that has become larger than God's promises?
- What conclusion have I drawn that Scripture does not require?

ACTION STEP:

Rewrite one fear-driven conclusion as a truth-shaped statement.

EXAMPLE: Fear-driven conclusion:

"If I lose this job, everything will fall apart."

Truth-shaped statement:

"Losing this job would be difficult, but my security is not found in employment. God will remain faithful, give me wisdom for the next step, and provide what I need as I trust and obey Him."

The difference between fear and faith is often perspective.

RETURN

Father, guide me in wisdom. Help me to distinguish faith from fear, and shape my response with your truth. In Jesus' name.

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

EQUIPMENT

RECONNECT

God Has Equipped Us

God does not send His people into spiritual conflict unprepared. In Ephesians 6:14–18, He calls us to stand firm by putting on the whole armor He provides:

- **The belt of truth** holds everything together, grounding us in what God has said rather than in deception.
- **The breastplate of righteousness** guards the heart as we rest in Christ's righteousness and choose what is right.
- **The readiness of the gospel of peace** gives us steady footing and prepares us to carry Christ's peace wherever He sends us.
- **The shield of faith** enables us to extinguish the enemy's flaming arrows of fear, accusation, temptation, and doubt.
- **The helmet of salvation** protects the mind by fixing our identity and hope on God's saving work in Christ.
- **The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God**, equips us to answer lies and temptation with God's truth.
- **Prayer in the Spirit** keeps us alert, dependent on God, and persistent in praying for all His people.

REFOCUS

Ephesians 6:13

Take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day.

The enemy wins when we fight the wrong battle

RESPOND

ASK YOURSELF:

- Which part of God's provision have I neglected?
- Which lie needs a direct answer from Scripture?
- Where am I depending on my strength?

ACTION STEP:

Choose one neglected piece of equipment and use it deliberately today.

RETURN

*Father, when I feel surrounded, remind me that in Christ I have everything I need for any battle.
In Jesus' name.*

Don't play checkers while the enemy is playing chess

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

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

RECONNECT

Re-read **2 Kings 6:8-23**.

In a spiritual battle, how we respond matters just as much as what we're fighting. We can recognize a lie and still respond with pride.

In 2 Kings 6, Elisha's servant saw the enemy army surrounding the city and immediately assumed they were defeated. Elisha saw the same danger, but he also understood a greater reality: God's forces were already present.

The servant's circumstances did not change when his eyes were opened. What changed was his understanding of the circumstances. Before we react to a difficult moment, we need to give God room to correct what fear is telling us.

REFOCUS

2 Kings 6:17

Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see."

*God often changes our perspective before He changes
our circumstances.*

RESPOND

ASK YOURSELF:

- What is really happening here?
- What lie or temptation is present?
- What truth addresses it?
- What response reflects Christ?

ACTION STEP:

Before responding to a difficult moment, Pause, Identify, Replace, Choose, and Pray:

Pause: Do not let your first emotion dictate your response. Pause to remember that what you see is not the whole story.

Identify: Name the emotion and conclusion forming within you. Are you afraid, angry, defensive, or assuming the worst?

Replace: Compare your conclusion with God's truth. Replace fear-shaped thinking with a truth-shaped statement.

Choose: Choose a response shaped by truth rather than fear—faith, patience, courage, or obedience.

Pray: Ask God to open your eyes to His presence, provision, and faithful next step.

The goal is not to deny the enemy, but to remember God is present, at work, and greater than what surrounds us.

Identify one recent battle that might have ended differently responding in this manner.

***Faith does not deny reality. Faith interprets reality
through the promises of God.***

RETURN >>>>

Father, keep me focused on representing You well in how I respond to adversity. In Jesus' name.

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

UNIT COHESION

RECONNECT

A soldier who becomes separated from the unit is easier to confuse, isolate, and defeat. The same is true spiritually. God designed the church so that believers would not stand alone, but would watch over one another, offer encouragement, speak correction, pray faithfully, and remain united.

Unit cohesion begins with a shared allegiance to Jesus Christ. Because we belong to Him, we remind one another of truth, refuse gossip and division, carry each other's burdens, and lovingly call one another back when someone begins to drift.

But we do not stand together merely for our own protection. God gathers and strengthens His people so that we can bear witness to Christ, serve those around us, expose darkness with truth, and invite people out of captivity and into the freedom found in Jesus.

As Scripture reshapes the way we see our circumstances and the people around us:

- Fear gives way to faith.
- Confusion gives way to clarity.
- Reaction gives way to wisdom.
- Despair gives way to hope.

Spiritual victory often begins when God opens our eyes to see what is true.

REFOCUS

Hebrews 3:13

Exhort one another every day...that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Victory Begins When We Learn to See What God Sees.

RESPOND

ASK YOURSELF:

- Who knows where I am vulnerable?
- Who may challenge my thinking?
- Whom can I strengthen this week?
- Where has conflict distracted me from mission?

ACTION STEP:

Contact one believer, share one insight, and pray for each other.

RETURN

Father, guide me toward unity. May I offer and submit to accountability. In Jesus' name.