





THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE



LESSON TWO STUDY GUIDE

As we look to find ways to protect our children in a social media society, it's important that we understand that this battle with technology is not just a physical one (as we explored last week). Rather, it's also very much a spiritual battle. The devil knows that your child is precious to you, and even more precious to God, so he will do whatever it takes to capture their heart. It is our role as parents to fight back against the temptations that surround our children.

Sounds like a lot of pressure, right? Be encouraged. You are not fighting this battle alone. With the power of God, the power of His word, and the Holy Spirit, there is abundant hope for you and your child.

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.
Why would the devil be threatened by our children?
2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ
2. How are you and your spouse strengthening and protecting the hearts and minds of your children?
Deuteronomy 6:6,7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
3. As a parent, you have the power to cause more good in your child's life than any other relationship. Do you believe this? List three ways you can positively impact your child with God's Word.
Proverbs 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom. I. Do you believe you are giving enough attention to the spiritual health of your children, or have you been neglectful of this area of their lives? What can you do to improve?

Take Action

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- It's very important to remember that the battle for your child's heart is physical AND spiritual. If you are not doing this already, commit to praying for your children every day at a specific time. Discuss what you will specifically pray for with your spouse, then set an alarm on your phone as a reminder to pray. Ignore everything else during this time.
- It might also be helpful to memorize a few of the verses mentioned in this study guide. After you begin praying for your child, set aside time each night to pray with your child. This seemingly simple activity will not only teach your child about the importance of prayer, but it will plant a seed in their heart that will benefit them for years to come.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Tell your child that there's nothing they can do to make you love them more or less. Then ask them if they believe you. Why or why not? Do you think the time we spend on our smartphones distracts us from the mission God has called us to? What is that mission?

DEEPER DIVE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

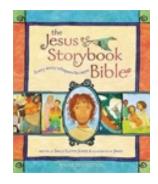
We all know that the sin in our lives and the lives of our children is a result of a deeper heart issue. We want to give one question/theme each week that will help you and/or your child look further into the heart to identify the real problem and to surrender it at the foot of the cross.

This week's deeper dive question is for your kids: What does God say we need to make the best decisions in life? What are you lacking at this stage in your life to make the best decision for yourself and others? What do you think the Bible means when it talks about "foolishness"?

Parents, use Ephesians 6:1-3 and Proverbs 22:15 to guide the discussion.

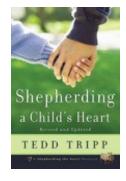
Additional Resources

As a parent, you have been entrusted with the responsibility to teach your child about the love of Jesus, what His Word says, and how this applies to their life. You may be thinking, "I'm not a teacher!" Rest assured that you do not have to do this alone. Reach out to your community: your pastor, your children's director at church, or even a respected and trusted friend to ask for help in this area. We have also collected resources that can help you equip your child as they grow in their faith.



Jesus the Storybook Bible: This Bible invites younger children to join in the greatest of all adventures, to discover for themselves that Jesus is at the center of God's great story of salvation — and at the center of their story too. Be sure that you set time aside to read this with your child. There are also YouTube videos to help you here.

Shepherding a Child's Heart by Tedd Tripp: Written for parents with children of any age, this insightful book provides perspectives and procedures for shepherding your child's heart into the paths of life. It is considered an essential read by Kirk and Chelsea Cameron..



Raising Children Who Hope in the Triumph of God: This 30-minute sermon from John Piper is for all parents who need spiritual direction with discipling their children.

Smartphone addiction and our spiritual ADD: This article will help you explain to your children the effects technology can have on our relationship with God.



Stories from TheCourage.com

Why your children should still obey your imperfect authority

Parents, why we need to be praying for our children more than ever

Fathers, here's how you can love and lead your children well