

Family Theme | **Is Fighting Ever Right?** Date | **December 1, 2024**

Study Text | **Genesis 14:1-20; Genesis 15:16; Deuteronomy 20:1-18; 9:4-5; 18:9-14; Revelation 19:11-21**

Read the Word: Genesis 14:1-20; Genesis 15:16; Deuteronomy 20:1-18; 9:4-5; 18:9-14; Revelation 19:11-21

Disciple Your Family: Discuss how God sometimes uses war and fighting to accomplish His purposes.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.

 **Key Truth: War and Fighting Are Sometimes Necessary to Protect and Defend The Innocent (Genesis 14:1-24)**

APPLY: There are times when it is necessary to fight to defend or protect the innocent.

- *When might it be necessary to fight?*

APPLY: God blessed Abram and David and gave them success in battle.

APPLY: John the Baptist did not instruct soldiers to quit soldiering after they became believers. He told them not to misuse their position and power as soldiers.

- *What do we find in the accounts of Abram, David, and John the Baptist that show us God sees war and fighting as sometimes necessary? (God blessed Abram and David and gave them success in battle; John the Baptist did not tell Christian soldiers to quit soldiering; etc.)*

APPLY: Treat soldiers and law enforcement personnel with honor and respect as they fight to save and protect the lives of others.

- *How can we show honor and respect to military and law enforcement personnel?*

APPLY: There might come a time when you must fight to defend or protect the innocent, such as an assault on your workplace or family or someone being badly mistreated.

- *What are some examples of when believers might be called upon to protect or defend the innocent?*

 **Key Truth: God Sometimes Uses War and Fighting to Implement Justice (Genesis 15:16; Deuteronomy 20:1-18; 9:4-5; 18:9-14)**

APPLY: God sometimes uses war to bring divine justice on evil and sinful people.

- *How did God's plan to give Israel the Promised Land also bring divine justice on wicked people?*
- *When examining issues like war, especially in Scripture, why is it important to remember God is sovereign and all-knowing?*

APPLY: Urge people to be delivered from divine justice by turning from sin to God.

- *We see examples of how God spared people when they turned from evil ways to follow Him. How can we use that truth to encourage people to turn to the Lord today?*
- *To our modern ears, it can be difficult to hear about the total destruction of cities and people groups in Scripture. How might it help to remember our perspective is limited and we can't see God's full perspective?*

APPLY: Be aware of the challenges military and law enforcement personnel face and encourage and assist them when you can.



Key Truth: A Final War Will End All Wars and Fighting (Revelation 19:11-21)

APPLY: Warn the lost as you look forward to the final victory Christ will bring.

- *What great hope can we find in the book of Revelation?*
- *How should reading about the end times motivate us to share the gospel with others?*
- *With whom could you share what the Bible says about the last war?*
- *What are some ways we can initiate spiritual conversations with others?*

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- How might Satan try to engage you in a battle of the mind?
- Who might Satan try to tempt you with your words and actions?
- What are some things you can do and should do to fight against Satan's temptations?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **John 3:16**



Discuss This Week's Building Block:

In the Tabernacle, the ark of the covenant was the only piece of furniture in the Holy of Holies. The golden lid of the ark was called the mercy seat.

Everyday Extras:

Write positive and negative statements (suggestions: *I can't do anything right. God loves me. I love my family. My sister drives me crazy. I have to do everything. My parents care about me.*) on pieces of paper and place them around the room (one statement/piece of paper). Read Philippians 4:8 aloud and name the types of things the Bible tells us to think about (what is true, honorable, just, pure, etc.). Let family members search for pieces of paper. Read each one aloud and discuss if it is a thought we should or should not have. Throw away the negative ones and display the positive ones around your home. Read them together throughout the week. Pray together and ask God to guard your minds against wrong thoughts.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned an angel told Zechariah and Elizabeth they would have a boy and they were to name him John. He shared with everyone Jesus is the Light of the World and in Him is grace and truth. Many people repented of their sin and John baptized so many that he was called John the Baptist. Say the Heartprint with your child throughout the week. **I Can Learn About Jesus** and tell others about Him.