

Facilitator Notes for "Knowing God by Name"

Lesson 11 – Yahweh Nissi – The LORD Is My Banner - Exodus 17:8-16

PLEASE DON'T READ THESE NOTES UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR LESSON.

Questions

Read **Exodus 17:8-16**. You may want to find **Rephidim** on the map that was supplied in Lesson 10.

The people of Israel, led by Moses, faced many challenges on their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. They had been chased by the Egyptian army, trapped at the Red Sea, and had experienced hunger and thirst in the wilderness. At the time of this incident described in **Exodus 17:8-16**, only a few weeks had passed since they left Marah where God has turned bitter waters, sweet (**Lesson 10**). From Marah, the Israelites had gone to Elim, a place of refreshing and rest (**Exodus 15:27**), but they soon forgot all that God had done for them. In the Wilderness of Sin (**Exodus 16**) they again complained because there was no food – and God miraculously provided daily *manna* for them to eat. Now at Rephidim, (**Exodus 17:1**) they once more quarreled with Moses because there is no water and were almost ready to commit mutiny (**Exodus 17:4**), questioning whether *Yahweh* was even with them (**Exodus 17:7**). After God, again, amazingly provided water for them (**Exodus 17:5-6**), the people soon discovered that perhaps there were worse enemies in the wilderness besides hunger and thirst.

1. What was Moses' strategy against the attacking Amalekites and what were the different responsibilities he assigned (**17:8-11**)?

Moses told Joshua to choose some men to go out and fight the Amalekites. Moses went to the top of the hill over the battlefield with the staff of God in his hands. Aaron and Hur went with Moses. It was Moses' job to hold up the staff of God with his hands during the battle.

- ♥ What are some of the different types of "enemies" we all face in life? What is usually your first reaction when an "enemy" comes against you? What are some strategies you have used?
- ♥ Consider what we have learned about the Israelites so far in these lessons. What disadvantages did they face in this battle with the Amalekites? **They were freed slaves and were not trained in warfare; they were in unfamiliar territory; they probably had limited weapons;** Advantages? **God was helping them and defending them; Moses seemed to know what to do and Joshua was a good leader.** In your own battles of life, what do you see as your disadvantages? Advantages? Which seems to outweigh the other? How so?

2. Summarize what the *staff of God* (**17:9**) represented to the Israelites (**Exodus 4:17; 7:10, 17; 8:5, 16; 14:16; 17:5-6**). What role did it play in this battle (**17:11**)?

From the very beginning, when God called Moses at the burning bush, Moses' shepherd's **staff became a sign or symbol of God's presence and power – and Moses' spiritual authority.** God told Moses to use the staff to bring the plagues on Egypt, to part the waters of the Red Sea and to strike the rock in the wilderness to provide water for the Israelites. The staff made it evident that Moses did not have power in and of himself. Moses carried out God's commands through the staff – so much so that it became known as "the staff of God" (Ex. 17:9).

In this battle, as long as Moses held up the staff of God where the warriors could see it as a sign of God's presence and power, the battle went in their favor. But if the staff was lowered, the battle turned. This left no doubt in everyone's mind as to who really was fighting and winning the battle. After the victory, no one but God could take credit or receive the glory.

- ♥ Can you think of any physical items that you own which are important to you because of their spiritual significance? What purpose do these items serve? How might they encourage you?

We might use crosses, prayer beads, special pieces of jewelry, art, plaques with scripture, etc. to remind us of spiritual truths or of some spiritual milestone or answered prayer. We don't worship the objects themselves, but they remind us of God's presence and power and they encourage us in worship and thanksgiving. Physical objects can become "altars" or "memorials" to remind us what God has done for us.

God often uses the physical to symbolize or point to the spiritual – such as the wine and bread used in the Lord's Supper and the water used in baptism. The staff of God became such a symbol for the Israelites; it was a physical item that represented God's power and authority in their lives. It also reminded them that God was their Shepherd and they were God's flock.

- ♥ Moses assigned he and Joshua very different roles in this battle (17:9-11). Why were both needed? What does this teach you about the battles you fight with your "enemies?"

Joshua did the actual fighting against the physical enemy while Moses sat on top of the mountain praying, interceding and holding up the sign of God's authority, power and intervention – the staff of God. It would not have been enough for Joshua to fight nor for Moses to pray. Both were needed. When we fight our battles in life, we will need to take action (do our part) as well as pray and depend on God as he does his part. The one gives power to the other and both are needed. Divine sovereignty and human responsibility are linked in carrying out the will of God.

3. What do you think is the significance of Moses' raised hands in this story and what effect did the raised staff have on the troops?

The first and most obvious significance of Moses' raised hands is that he was raising them to the Lord in prayer and intercession, asking for victory. Aaron and Hur coming alongside to hold up his hands is a beautiful picture of friends and loved ones supporting us in our prayer battles. It is also a picture of how we need each other. Even the most spiritually strong get tired and need help and support. God has placed each of us families and faith communities so that we can help and support each other. We are never called to be a Lone Ranger Christian. We should never be shy to ask help from others or to give help to others – especially in spiritual battles.

Moses' raised hands were also holding up the staff of God – a sign of God's presence, power, protection to those who were fighting. When Moses raised the staff of God and kept it up, he was reminding everyone what God had done through the staff for it was the God-given staff, the wondering-working staff, the staff that brought the terrible plagues on Egypt and opened the path through the Red Sea. When Moses held up the staff during the battle, he was holding up a visible sign of God's power for all to see – and it encouraged the faith of all who saw it.

- ♥ What "battles" or challenges are you in right now that you might be trying to fight in your own strength? What do you need most to help you continue to endure? How can you get this help?
 - ♥ Aaron and Hur helped Moses when he grew weary of holding up his hands (17:12-13). Has God ever sent others to help you in the midst of battle? Who and how? What difference did they make?
 - ♥ What help could you give someone you know who is in the midst of a battle right now? How could you "shoulder" some responsibility to help the leader(s) of your faith community or Bible study?
4. After the battle, Moses built an altar, calling it *Yahweh Nissi – The Lord is My Banner*. Read again the introduction to this lesson. In what ways was *Yahweh* a *Banner* to the Israelites during this battle and in what ways did he win the victory for them?

Yahweh, himself, was the Israelites safety and protection during battle. The Israelites were fighting under his authority and power. When Moses held up the staff of God, he became a living banner symbolizing God's presence to help them win the victory. The Israelites strength and ability to fight came from God alone – thus he was their rallying point and the One who encouraged them in battle. Fighting under God's power and authority aroused devotion to Yahweh, who gave them success and victory. Yahweh, himself, was the banner under which the Israelites gathered.

- ♥ After the battle was won, what did God tell Moses to do (17:14)? What do you think was God's purpose? What application can you make to your own spiritual journey?

God told Moses to Write down as a permanent record what happened and what God said he would do. Writing it down would assure that the people would not forget what God had done – and also future generations would also have a record of what God had done.

We, too, need to write down highlights of our spiritual journey – those times when we hear God speak to us, when he answers our prayers, when he brings healing or works things out for our good. We think we won't forget it – but we do. Keeping a written record of spiritual milestones also builds our faith and encourages us when we are in difficult circumstances. It reminds us how God has worked in the past so that we have hope (confident expectation) of his working in our lives again.

Why was God going to be at war against the Amalekites and blot out every trace of Amalek from under heaven (17:14, 16)? The Amalekites were distant cousins of the Israelites, descending from one of Esau's grandsons, Amalek. (Esau was Jacob's twin brother, so the Amalekites were direct descendants of Isaac.) They were a numerous and powerful people, living in the northern parts of the Sinai peninsula. As descendants of Isaac, it is likely that they knew about God's promise to give Canaan to Jacob and his descendants. As the Israelites passed through their land, the Amalekites should have **afforded** help, not opposition, for the Israelites posed no threat to their people or land. They drew God's anger on two counts: 1) they tried to thwart the hand and plan of God in Israel's life and destiny; and 2) the first targets of their warfare were the sick, aged, and tired of Israel who lagged behind the main group (**Deuteronomy 25:17-19**). In short, the Amalekites "knew better" and God held them accountable. Attacking the Israelites was the same as attacking God's plan of redemption for all people and nations.

- ♥ What banner do you or raise up or depend on in life? How have you been tempted to depend on the banner of *self* or *money* or *position* or *control* instead of *Yahweh*? How can *Yahweh* be your *Banner*?
 - ♥ In what ways has God protected you in your battles, assuring you that he is fighting for you? What battle has God recently won for you? What would you name your altar? The Lord is my _____.
5. The Israelites' experience of battle is an analogy of the *spiritual* warfare in which we find ourselves. Every follower of Jesus Christ is at war, whether they are aware of it or not. From the following verses, what do you learn about the "war" in which we find ourselves?

Ephesians 6:10-12 ; 1 Peter 5:8

Our war is not with people made of flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil and powers of darkness that rule our broken, fallen world. Our war is against the devil and his kingdom and against his tricks and schemes against us. His is like a roaring lion that is looking for someone to devour. Our weapon in this spiritual war is the armor of God.

Galatians 5:16-17; Romans 7:18-20

We also are at war with our sinful nature – an internal war that will go on within us, to some degree, all during our earthly life. The Holy Spirit who lives in us (if we have been born again – John chapter 3) is in conflict with our sinful nature because the Holy Spirit and our sinful nature have different goals and desires. Even though we are continually transformed by the Holy Spirit within us to become more and more like Jesus as we grow spiritually, we will never be completely free of this conflict. Even though we want to live to please God, our fallen nature will try to pull us in the opposite direction, promoting and protecting self-centeredness.

1 John 5:19; 1 John 2:15-16 -

The world system in which we live with its values and beliefs is under the control of the Satan and his kingdom. The values of a Christ follower are to love God and love others as ourselves. The world's values are self-centered, wanting more and more of earthly pleasures that never satisfy and becoming proud and arrogant about what we own and possess – thinking that it is material things that define us and give us identity. Again, we will always feel the pull of the world's values and we must be careful that we are living for and loving God and that he is first in our love and our life. Jesus said we cannot have two masters – we will always love one and hate the other. We cannot serve both God and money (worldly values). This is the tension or "war" that we live in.

- ♥ What do the words *schemes*, *strategies* and *tricks* reveal about the devil? He doesn't "play fair;" he main tool is deception (Jesus called him the father of all lies); he is constantly looking to trip us up where we least expect it. What is his goal? The enemy's main goal is to separate us from

God and to make us doubt God's goodness and love. What does the devil use to "devour" someone? Anything he can – he has no scruples. What makes our battle a *spiritual* battle? We are not fighting physical enemies; we are fighting the spiritual forces behind physical people and events. We need to use spiritual weapons in this spiritual war. What evidence do you see of the battle in your life? Your church? Your community? Your nation? The world?

- ♥ When do you usually become aware of the conflict within you, between the Spirit and your sinful nature? What does it feel like? What do you usually do about it?
- ♥ How does the enemy entice us with the values and things of the world? In what areas of your life does love for the things of the world compete with your love for God? How can this competition make you feel like you are at war?

6. From **Ephesians 6:13-18**, what are the weapons God supplies in order for us to fight a *spiritual* battle?

<p>6:13 Armor of God that helps us stand and not fall in battle</p>	<p>6:14 Belt of Truth; Breastplate or body armor of Righteousness (right standing with God through Christ)</p>	<p>6:15 Peace of (with) God that comes from the Good News (the Gospel)</p>
<p>6:16 Faith (in God's promises and his character) as a shield that will protect us against the doubts and temptations the enemy will throw at us</p>	<p>6:17 Helmet of Salvation (purchased by Christ on the cross where he defeated Satan once and for all (2 Tim. 1:10; 1 John 3:8) and the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God</p>	<p>6:18 Praying in the power of the Holy Spirit</p>

- ♥ How can things like **Truth, Christ's Righteousness, Salvation, Faith** and **God's Word**, etc. be used as weapons against the devil, our sinful nature and the temptations of the world?

Much of the battle will be fought in our minds and hearts that we fill with Truth and God's Word, trusting God's promises and character. Romans 12:2 explains the process: "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by **changing the way you think (renewing the mind)**. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is."

- ♥ How do you "*put on*" the armor of God? We "pray" it on and we put it on by filling our hearts and minds with God's truth found in his Word as we maintain a close, loving relationship with God. Which of these are offensive weapons? The Word of God (sword of the Spirit) is an offensive weapon where we can hold up God's Word to attack the lies and deceptions the enemy will throw at us. We do, however, need to know God's Word before we can effectively use it! Defensive weapons? All the other parts of the armor are more defensive and we use them to **protect ourselves**. When have these weapons helped you? How can you use them for someone else?

Yahweh Nissi – Jesus is My Banner

7. Even though the Israelites had to fight the battle with their enemy, the Amalekites, they were not alone in battle. Moses sat on top of a hill, where all could look up and see, holding up his hands in prayer and the staff of God as a banner (*Yahweh Nissi*) representing God's *presence, protection* and *victory*.

As Christ followers, we too, have a **Banner** we can look to in our battles that assures us of God's presence, protection and especially his victory. Read and then think carefully about the following verses. What *similarities* do you see between Moses sitting on *top of a hill with the raised staff of God* and Jesus' *crucifixion, resurrection and ascension*? How is Jesus our **Banner**?

John 3:14; 12:32; Hebrews 2:14; Ephesians 1:19-21; Hebrews 12:2-3; 1 Peter 3:22

First, Jesus was “lifted up” on the cross where died in our place and by his death, destroyed and overcame the power that the devil has over us. Jesus was lifted up on the cross and offers salvation to every human being. In this sense, he is a Banner that assures us the victory because he has already defeated our enemy.

Jesus is also lifted up as a Banner in his ascension into heaven after his resurrection. God seated him at his right hand (a place of honor and power) which demonstrates that Christ has authority over every ruler, authority, power or leader (both physical and spiritual) and anything else in this world or the world to come. We fix our eyes on Jesus, our Banner of victory, knowing that because he won the victory, we can too. Our victory in spiritual warfare is assured because of Christ’s victory over all the spiritual powers of darkness. He is lifted up as our Banner of victory.

- ♥ When in battle, why is it important that we keep our eyes on Jesus? We fix our eyes on Jesus by living life with him, following him as he leads us. This means that there will need to be two-way communication between us and him. How do we do that? By filling our minds and hearts with his Word and by having a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus.
 - ♥ How does Jesus being seated at God's right hand in the heavens, assure us the victory? (See above)
 - ♥ Banners are signs of *presence, protection* and *victory*. What banner does Jesus fly over *us* (**Song of Songs 2:4**)? A banner of LOVE. How does this banner assure us of Jesus' *presence, protection, and victory* (**Romans 8:35-39**)? Jesus' love IS his Presence with us and his love IS our protection against anything that might come against us. Because nothing can ever separate us from his love, then nothing can separate us from his Presence or protection. We stand under his banner of Love which protects us and keeps us safe from hell, death and all the threats of the enemy. “Whoever or whatever would try to get at Christ’s people to hurt them must pass through the banner of the love of the Lord Jesus. Christ’s people, then, have great spiritual safety . . .” (John Owen in *Communion with God*).
8. For victory, the Israelites needed both **Joshua** on the field and **Moses** on the hilltop. How is Jesus *both Joshua* and *Moses* to us when we are in battle (**John 16:33; 1 John 4:4; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25**)?

Jesus is like Joshua (Joshua means *Yahweh is salvation*) in that he has **fought our battle** and has already overcome the world. He, and the Holy Spirit who lives in us, is greater than any evil force in the world. He is with us and in us, ready to fight anything that comes against us.

Jesus is like Moses in that he is at the right hand of God constantly interceding (praying) for us. “He lives forever to plead with God on our behalf.” As we live life, Jesus is praying for us and continually speaks to the Father in our defense (1 John 2:1), serving as a mediator between God and humans (1 Timothy 2:5).

♥ Heart Therapy

In this lesson we have learned that *Yahweh* is our *Banner*, always with us in battle, assuring us of the victory. We also saw the importance of encouraging, helping and praying for those who are presently in battle, just as Moses prayed for and encouraged Joshua, and as Aaron and Hur supported Moses.

Who do you know who is in the "thick of battle" right now? How can you pray for, help and encourage them? **Psalm 20** is a beautiful prayer written for those who are in battle. Read this Psalm and pray it for someone you know who is struggling in battle. Prayer will raise the banner of *Yahweh Nissi* over them. You might want to paraphrase all or parts of this Psalm, expressing its truth in your own words with contemporary language – and then **send it** to the one you are praying for. Your prayers and encouragement will assure them that *Yahweh Nissi* is truly with them in battle, assuring the victory!

Included with this lesson is a written warfare prayer that you can pray for yourself or the ones you love.

BELOW IS THE SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURE FOR THIS LESSON THAT CAN BE PRINTED OUT FOR SMALL GROUP TIME

NIV

Exodus 4:17 But take this staff in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it.”

Exodus 7:10 So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake.

Exodus 7:17 This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood.

Exodus 8:5 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your hand with your staff over the streams and canals and ponds, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.’”

Exodus 8:16 Then the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron, ‘Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats.”

Exodus 14:16 Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground.

Exodus 17:5-6 The LORD answered Moses, “Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. **6** I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Ephesians 6:10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

1Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Galatians 5:16-17 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. **17** For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

Romans 7:18-20 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. **19** For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. **20** Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

1John 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

1John 2:15-16 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world.

Ephesians 6:13-18 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

John 3:14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

John 12:32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.”

Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

Ephesians 1:19-21 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, **20** which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **21** far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Hebrews 12:2-3 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

1Peter 3:22 who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Romans 8:35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? **36** As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” **37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, **39** neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 16:33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

1John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

NLT

Exodus 4:17 And be sure to take your shepherd's staff along so you can perform the miraculous signs I have shown you."

Exodus 7:10 So Moses and Aaron went to see Pharaoh, and they performed the miracle just as the LORD had told them. Aaron threw down his staff before Pharaoh and his court, and it became a snake.

Exodus 7:17 Now the LORD says, "You are going to find out that I am the LORD." Look! I will hit the water of the Nile with this staff, and the river will turn to blood.

Exodus 8:5 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron to point his shepherd's staff toward all the rivers, canals, and marshes of Egypt so there will be frogs in every corner of the land."

Exodus 8:16 So the LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron to strike the dust with his staff. The dust will turn into swarms of gnats throughout the land of Egypt."

Exodus 14:16 Use your shepherd's staff—hold it out over the water, and a path will open up before you through the sea. Then all the people of Israel will walk through on dry ground.

Exodus 17:5-6 The LORD said to Moses, "Take your shepherd's staff, the one you used when you struck the water of the Nile. Then call some of the leaders of Israel and walk on ahead of the people. **6** I will meet you by the rock at Mount Sinai. Strike the rock, and water will come pouring out. Then the people will be able to drink." Moses did just as he was told; and as the leaders looked on, water gushed out.

Ephesians 6:10-12 A final word: Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. **11** Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil.

12 For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms.

1Peter 5:8 Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.

Galatians 5:16-17 So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. **17** The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict.

Romans 7:18-20 I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't. **19** When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. **20** But if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing it; the sin within me is doing it.

1John 5:19 We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the power and control of the evil one.

1John 2:15-16 Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love the world, you show that you do not have the love of the Father in you. **16** For the world offers only the lust for physical pleasure, the lust for everything we see, and pride in our possessions. These are not from the Father. They are from this evil world.

Ephesians 6:13-18 Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. **14** Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness.

15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. **16** In every battle you

will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. **17** Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18** Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere.

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so I, the Son of Man, must be lifted up on a pole,

John 12:32 And when I am lifted up on the cross, I will draw everyone to myself."

Hebrews 2:14 Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death.

Ephesians 1:19-21 I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power **20** that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. **21** Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else in this world or in the world to come.

Hebrews 12:2-3 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy he knew would be his afterward. Now he is seated in the place of highest honor beside God's throne in heaven. **3** Think about all he endured when sinful people did such terrible things to him, so that you don't become weary and give up.

1Peter 3:22 Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers are bowing before him.

Romans 8:35-39 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or are hungry or cold or in danger or threatened with death? **36** (Even the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") **37** No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

Romans 8:38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. **39** Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

John 16:33 I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."

1John 4:4 But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won your fight with these false prophets, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

Romans 8:34 Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? No, for he is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us.

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save everyone who comes to God through him. He lives forever to plead with God on their behalf.