

# Sequoia Brigade Camp



You're in the battle, whether you know it or not.

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Sequoia Brigade Camp  
2009

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# God's Plan Of Salvation

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## What is God like?

God is the creator of all things, sustains all things, and is intimately involved in the affairs of history from the smallest event to the grandest event.

God is both the **OWNER** of the universe he created and the **AUTHOR** of History as it unfolds.

God is holy and perfect and cannot abide sin. Because all sin as an affront to God every sin must be atoned for (the penalty paid).

To put this all plainly, the God of the Bible is the perfect heavenly King of the universe.

## What are we like?

Here is the problem – The Bible is very clear – all of us have sinned. We all have done many wrong things (Romans 3:23). Even the things we have done that we call GOOD are often done out of selfish intent, such as to get praise from others. We have offended our heavenly king by our sin and our sin must be punished. If God did not punish sin then He would be an unjust King.

## God's solution

What is the solution? God decided that because of his great love he would provide his only son, Jesus, to take on himself the punishment that we deserved for our sin. Instead of punishing you, he punished Jesus. Jesus could do this for us because he became a man (and in so being could die) but he is also God and as such could take on the sin of those he loves. (John 3:16, Romans 6:23)

Because Jesus died for our sins and then conquered sin and death when he rose again, the wall of sin that once separated us from a loving relationship with our Creator has been torn down. When you begin to trust in Christ you are adopted into God's family and now belong to the loving King of the universe.

## What God requires of you

God calls us to:

1. Believe what the Bible says is true
2. Repent of your sin and your attempts to earn God's favor on your own
3. Trust that Christ's death paid the penalty for your sin
4. Begin to live for Christ out of thankfulness

To live for Christ means that you will have to make his word your standard for living

- You may have to re-examine some of your previous beliefs
- You will have to change many of your behaviors
- You'll need to begin to study God's word and pray regularly
- Because God desires your worship and because Christians need each other you will want to find a Bible believing church if you are not already a part of one.

# Start Here ...

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## **Exploration is Exciting**

Exploration is always exciting. Traveling to new lands, unearthing long lost treasures, and new scientific discoveries have all inspired humanity since our very beginning. This book is called a **Bible** Exploration because it is intended to help direct you as you explore God's word, the Bible.

The Bible is not an ordinary book. It is God's word to us, and tells us about where we came from, where we are going, and all about who God is, who we are and how we can be made right with Him.

If you think that the vast ocean depths and the infinite cosmos are full of interesting things to explore, the Bible helps us to search the very depths of God and to see his infinite love for sinners just like you and me. He also provides us with the history of the human race and a wealth of wisdom about how we can live in a way that pleases him.

## **This years Bible Exploration**

This years Bible Exploration focuses on the fact that there is a spiritual war taking place. This war began in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve, the first humans decided that they wanted to test God's word and in doing so rebelled by trusting Satan's word instead of God. This first sin of disobedience and rebellion is where all our sin, evil and problems come from and was the opening shot in a war that is still going on today.

You may not realize it, but right now, wherever you are seated or standing, a fierce battle is taking place both around you and within your heart. This war is between the enemies of Jesus Christ, with Satan as their general, and all of Christ's followers with Jesus as their King.

There are only two armies. You either belong to one or the other. We hope that as you explore God's word this week you will become clear about what side you are currently fighting for as well as how to fight the spiritual battle effectively.

Above all, as you read the Bible this week, remember that you are reading God's word which is

*“living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12*

As you read you will be changed by the words that you read. You will either be softened or hardened. Pray that God would soften your heart to receive his word and to increase your love and obedience toward him, rather than being hardened to God's voice and continuing to do things your own way, just like our first parents Adam and Eve did so long ago.

## **A note to young ladies ....**

Though this Bible Exploration is at sometimes focused on boys, those sections are very important to you as well. First, because it is God's word and it is always relevant no matter if you are a boy or a girl. Secondly, because when the Bible talks about the attributes of a Godly man, you should note well what these character traits look like so that you will be able to identify the kind of Man God would have you marry one day.

# Day 1 Devotions and Bible Exploration

You are in the middle of a battle

## BIBLE EX

The Bible very clearly tells us that we are each participants in the midst of a spiritual battle. We are combatants whether we like it or not. The only important questions are whose side we are fighting for, and are we actively engaged or using lots of excuses to ignore the fight to which God has called us. The goal of today's Bible Exploration is to help you understand what this spiritual battle looks like so you are ready and aware of what is happening even when it's not obvious.

## Morning Devotions

### Memorize 1 Corinthians 16:13

**“Be on your Guard, stand firm in the Faith, be men of courage; be strong.”**

1. Take a few minutes to think about the passage. Really meditate on it
2. Ask God to open your eyes further to its meaning.
3. Ask God to give you strength to change any area of your life that does not reflect the verse above.

## THE BATTLE

### Read Daniel 10: 1-13.

Provide a short summary of the passage above. What could Daniel see and what was actually going on “behind the scenes.” Pay particular attention to verse 13 \_\_\_\_\_

What can we learn from this text about what is going on behind the scenes of our own lives and the events of our world today? \_\_\_\_\_

### Read Ephesians 6:10-20

In verse 12 how does the Apostle Paul describe the Christian life? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the equipment Ephesians tells us is available to us in the battle? \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these pieces of equipment do you believe you have either not put on or needs strengthening? \_\_\_\_\_

### Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

This verse tells us what our weapons ARE and what they are NOT. According to verse 3 the weapons of our warfare are NOT what? What does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_

According to verses 4-5 the weapons of our warfare ARE what? In light of this what should our attitude be when we fight the spiritual fight. \_\_\_\_\_

**Read 1 Peter 5:8**

How is Satan described in this verse? Why do you think Peter used this picture to describe Satan? \_\_\_\_\_

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**THE TACTICS**

**Since we are surrounded by an enemy who is seeking our destruction, wouldn't it be nice to know what his primary tactics are? If we knew that, then we could be more aware when he is about to assault us and we can better defend ourselves! This next section deals with Satan's main tactic.**

**Read John 8:44**

In this verse Satan is described as a murderer and a \_\_\_\_\_

If Satan is not only a \_\_\_\_\_ and the father of \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ are/is the language he speaks what tactics below do you think he will be using more often?

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Obvious open attacks             | 5. Getting us to be lazy                            |
| 2. Misdirection                     | 6. Sending evil looking people to trick us          |
| 3. Convincing us there is no battle | 7. Sending nice looking/sounding people to trick us |
| 4. Military invasion                |   |

**Read Jeremiah 6:14, 8:11, Ezekiel 13:10**

How were the Israelites being deceived in these passages? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you think your are being deceived, distracted or are being made ineffective in the spiritual battle?

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**Read James 1:13-16**

What is the process of temptation described in this verse? How does it start, and how does it end? \_\_\_\_\_

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According to this verse, who and what is ultimately responsible when we lose our battle with sin? Who's to blame? \_\_\_\_\_

**Read 1 John 1:9**

If we have been deceived, distracted, or have been losing the battle of sin in our life, what solution and hope does this verse provide? \_\_\_\_\_

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Take a few moments to pray that God would open your eyes to areas of sin that have caused you to be a poor soldier in his army. Ask that God would forgive you and provide the strength you need to live a life that pleases him. The Good news is that for all those who belong to the Lord Jesus the battle has already been won by Jesus when he conquered sin and death on the cross. There is no temptation that Satan can place before you that cannot be overcome, because it was atoned for when Christ died and then rose again on the third day.

# Day 2 Devotions and Bible Exploration

## Don't Be Deceived

### BIBLE EX

Yesterday we read that we are all in the midst of a spiritual battle, little girls and little boys, teenagers, men, women and old folks, all of us are soldiers. It is easy to envision what a regular battle looks like: **Swords, guns, and bombs, explosions and broken buildings. This is clearly not what the *spiritual* battle looks like, though. This next section describes what the spiritual battle does look like and how you can fight in it successfully starting right now.**

#### Read Ephesians 6:1-9.

You may have noticed that this is the first part of the chapter from Ephesians we read yesterday. This is important because while the last half of the chapter (v.10-20) tell us that we are fighting a spiritual battle, this first part of the chapter describes what spiritual battle actually looks like. According to this passage:

How are children to fight in the spiritual battle? \_\_\_\_\_

How are fathers to fight in the spiritual battle? \_\_\_\_\_

How are slaves/servants/workers to fight in the spiritual battle? \_\_\_\_\_

**You'll notice that there are no clashes of titanic angelic forces, no trumpets sounding and no mystical rites or ceremonies to perform in this battle. Paul tells us here that the spiritual battle is fought by ordinary obedience, patience, forgiveness, love etc. Jesus fought a serious spiritual battle just as he was beginning his earthly ministry. Read about this battle and learn from him how we should be fighting as well.**

#### Read Matthew 4:1-11

Did Satan begin his temptation when Jesus' was strongest or weakest? What example does this set for us?

How did Jesus respond every time Satan tempted him? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Read Psalm 119:9-11

When Jesus was tempted how did he benefit from following the advice of this Psalm? (specifically in v. 11).

### Morning Devotions

#### Memorize James 1:14-15

**“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own evil desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived it gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full grown, brings forth death.”**

1. Take a few minutes to think about the passage. Really meditate on it
2. Ask God to open your eyes further to its meaning.
3. Ask God to give you strength to change any area of your life that does not reflect the verse above.

How can you “Hide God’s word in your heart? Do you believe you can successfully withstand temptations and win battles if you have not “Hidden God’s word in your heart? \_\_\_\_\_

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The following are a number of additional verses that describe how we fight in the battle using the weapons God describes in Ephesians. For each of these verses work together to identify what the main point of the verse is and a practical situation in which you can apply the verse.

**Philippians 2:3-8**

The Point: \_\_\_\_\_

The situation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 10:19**

The Point: \_\_\_\_\_

The situation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 27:20**

The Point: \_\_\_\_\_

The situation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts 5:25-42**

The Point: \_\_\_\_\_

The situation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 26:14-15**

The Point: \_\_\_\_\_

The situation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Proverbs 15:1**

The Point: \_\_\_\_\_

The situation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Colossians 3:12-13**

The Point: \_\_\_\_\_

The situation: \_\_\_\_\_

**1 John 2:1-6**

The Point: \_\_\_\_\_

The situation: \_\_\_\_\_

**What are some the practical “battles” you have been losing in your daily life? (Think of how you use your tongue, how you treat your siblings, your parents, your teachers, where you allow your thoughts to go, what you do when you think no one is watching.)**

**Identify some of those battles that you desire God to help you begin winning that you might be an effective warrior for the advancement of Christ’s kingdom. Take a few minutes to confess those areas of sin and to ask God to help you live a more Christ like life.**

# Day 3 Devotions and Bible Exploration

The Proverbs were written for young men

## BIBLE EX

If there is any book of the Bible specifically tailored for young men it's the Proverbs. This book was primarily written by Solomon, who though being the wisest of men, could remember well the pitfalls of his own youth.

As you read through the following passages think of them as what they are, God the Father speaking to you his son and imploring you to listen to his wisdom. By doing so you will be better able to fight in the battle God has prepared for you.

### WISDOM

Read Proverbs 1:20 How is wisdom described? What is she doing? What does this mean for us?

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Read Proverbs 4:1-3 What kind of instruction does God give us? What words might you use to describe a person who ignores this kind of instruction?

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### TEMPTATION

Read Proverbs 7

What was the young man's first error?

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What areas of your life are you acting in the same way? In what ways are you flirting with sin?

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### STUPIDITY

Read Proverbs 12:1

Who is stupid in this verse? Have you ever acted stupid in this way? How?

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## Morning Devotions

### Psalm 119:11

**"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."**

1. Take a few minutes to think about the passage. Really meditate on it
2. Ask God to open your eyes further to its meaning.
3. Ask God to give you strength to change any area of your life that does not reflect the verse above.

### **WORK**

Read Proverbs 14:23. In what ways might you fall into the trap described in this proverb? What can they do to get out of it?

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### **ARGUMENTS AND DEBATE**

Read Proverbs 18:17; 10:8; 12:15; 17:10; 25:8. What can you learn from these proverbs?

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### **WOMEN**

Read Proverbs 6:24; 9:13; 11:22; 25:24. What are some of the characteristics in women men should AVOID?

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The Proverbs were written for you. Because of this you should make it a habit to become intimately familiar with the Proverbs.

We encourage you when you go home to make it a habit to read at least a portion of a chapter each day. There are 31 chapters in the book of Proverbs and around as many days in a month. If you read a chapter a day you will go through the book of Proverbs 12 times in a year.

As we saw yesterday, when Jesus was tempted in the dessert his response to Satan was “It is written.” You should make it a goal to become so familiar with the proverbs that when a temptation comes your way you are able to respond with an appropriate Proverb. For instance:

- When tempted to argue with a parent you can respond to the temptation, “It is written, ‘The wise in heart accepts commands.’ I’ll obey”
- When tempted to covet you can respond “It is written, ‘The eyes of man are never satisfied.’ Once more won’t be enough.”

**Take a few minutes to pray together that God would help you to become intimately familiar with his word and that you would effectively wield it when temptation confronts you.**

# Day 4 Devotions and Bible Ex.

## Best Friend or Worst Enemy

### BIBLE EX

The Bible provides us with a great deal of advice regarding friends. Over and over again we are warned to be very careful and thoughtful about who we choose to spend our time with and call a friend. This is because those we choose as our friends will have an enormous impact on who we become and how effectively we fight in the battle. A good friend will help protect you and keep you on the right track and help you grow in your walk with Christ. A bad friend is like a spy, who is used by our enemy to not only make you an ineffective warrior, but can actually end up destroying you, all the while you think they are a comrade. Pay close attention today to what God tells us about friends. They can truly be your best friend or your worst enemy.

#### Read 1 Corinthians 15:33

What is the main point of this verse? What does the word “company.” mean?

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Why would the Apostle Paul start this verse with “Do not be deceived?”

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#### Read Proverbs 13:20

How does a foolish friend act and talk?

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How does a wise friend act and talk?

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King Solomon was called by God “the wisest of men” and wrote most of the book of Proverbs as a means of teaching his sons to be wise. Unfortunately, his son Rehoboam did not listen to his advice about choosing wise friends. After Rehoboam became king, the Israelites came to him and complained that Solomon had been too tough on them. Rehoboam went to two groups of people for advice. Take a look at who he went to, whose advice he listened to, and what happened not only to Jeroboam but also to the entire nation of Israel.

### Morning Devotions

#### Memorize 1 Corinthians 15:33

**“Do not be deceived.  
Bad company corrupts good character”**

1. Take a few minutes to think about the passage. Really meditate on it
2. Ask God to open your eyes further to its meaning.
3. Ask God to give you strength to change any area of your life that does not reflect the verse above.

**Read 1 Kings 12:1-15.**

What two groups did Rehoboam go to for advice? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the advice of the first group? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the advice of the second group? \_\_\_\_\_

Whose advice did he follow? \_\_\_\_\_

**The effects of Rehoboam choosing ungodly friends is that he listened to their advice and the results were huge and far reaching.**

- 1. God’s people, the Israelites, went to war with one another and resulted in a separation and conflict that was never truly resolved**
- 2. The name of God was mocked by the nations as they watched the Israelites fight amongst themselves**
- 3. Wicked Idol worship resulted and a hatred between the Jews and the Samaritans came about that was not finally healed until Jesus came and brought reconciliation 1000 years later.**

**Never underestimate the important influence that your friends will have on your life**

**Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.**

What does it mean to be Yoked/Bound with unbelievers in v. 14? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it NOT mean to be Yoked/Bound with unbelievers? \_\_\_\_\_

How does God feel about us being “yoked” with unbelievers? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently “yoked” to an unbeliever? If so what are you going to do about it? \_\_\_\_\_

According to the following verses what are some of the character traits in friends we should AVOID? Proverbs 4:24 _____ Proverbs 20:19 _____ Proverbs 1:10-19 _____ Proverbs 9:13-18 _____	According to the following verses what are some of the character traits in friends we should LOOK FOR? Psalms 119.63 _____ Proverbs 13:20 _____ Proverbs 28:7 _____
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**Take a few moments to pray that God would give you the strength to choose friends that will strengthen and support you as a Christian, and the courage to gently end close friendships that are hindering your ability to grow into a strong Christian warrior.**

# Day 5 Devotions and Bible Exploration

You should want gray hair!

## BIBLE EX

When we're young most of us want to get older. But no one nowadays wants to get OLD! People spend lots of money and time trying to erase the signs of age. From dying hair to getting treatments for wrinkles. But the crazy thing is that the Bible says a lot about the *blessings* of being old. This is because the Bible expects us to gain wisdom as we age. It is because of this that God tells us in Proverbs 20:29 that "The glory of old men is their gray hair!" Today's Bible Ex is intended to encourage you to look forward to getting older, not because you'll get to stay up later or drive a car, but because you desire to grow in wisdom and spiritual strength so you can better fight the battle we've been learning about.

Read Titus 1:5-9 out loud together. If some of you have different translations that is good. Read Titus 1:5-9 from each of the translations you have present. This should help you to understand more fully the words and ideas Paul is using in this text.

If you were to summarize the theme or main idea of this text in one phrase, what would it be?

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The word "Elder" or "Bishop" that is in many of your translations is the Greek word *Presbus* which literally means "someone that is older", but this word is also the title given to the *leaders* of the church. Why do you think God decided to call those who would lead in the church "Elders?" Do you think there is something about being older that makes this leadership title appropriate? If so, describe ...

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What does our culture think about getting old? Does our culture consider getting old a good thing? What about popular culture (movies, commercials, celebrities etc.) leads you to your conclusion?

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Read Proverbs 20:29; 23:22; 1:4; 7:7. According to these texts how does the Bible view age and youth?

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## Morning Devotions

### Memorize Proverbs 20:11

**"Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right."**

1. Take a few minutes to think about the passage. Really meditate on it
2. Ask God to open your eyes further to its meaning.
3. Ask God to give you strength to change any area of your life that does not reflect the verse above.

How do YOU feel about getting older? What are you looking forward to? What are you NOT looking forward to? If you had the choice of being a teenager forever or being 60 forever which would you truthfully desire right now?

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Regardless of your feelings about getting older, what should your attitude be toward getting OLD?

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Look back at Titus 1:5-9. The character traits described there are not only for church leaders, old folks or those who are spiritual giants in the faith. These characteristics should describe every Christian boy and man.

List below the Character traits that are mentioned in Titus 1:5-9

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 7. _____ |           |

What does it mean to be “blameless” or “above reproach”?

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If someone at school or at church were asked to describe you (your reputation), how do you think they would describe you? Try to think of something both positive and negative

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Write down at least one area of your life where you lack the self control that you need. If you have trouble, discuss together some of the areas where people tend to lack self control. That may help you.

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What habit can you begin starting Monday morning to become equipped to encourage in sound doctrine?

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# Memory Verses

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## **1 Corinthians 16:13**

*“Be on your Guard, stand firm in the Faith, be men of courage;  
be strong.”*

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## **James 1:14-15**

*“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own evil  
desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived it gives  
birth to sin; and sin when it is full grown, brings forth death.”*

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## **Psalms 119:11**

*“I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against  
you.”*

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## **1 Corinthians 15:33**

*“Do not be deceived. Bad company corrupts good character”*

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## **Proverbs 20:11**

*“Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is  
pure and right.”*