

Parent Study Guide – Bonus Verse 2012-13

THE WEAPONS OF POWER – 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Passage: *The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

– 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NIV84)

Theme: THE WEAPONS OF POWER – Ultimate power is found in the truth of God’s word.
Metaphor: SPIRITUAL LIFE IS LIKE A WAR – Requires powerful weapons to defeat a powerful enemy.
Message: SPIRITUAL BATTLES REQUIRE DIVINE TRUTH – to defeat lies of Satan, world, sin nature.
Action: TAKE CAPTIVE EVERY THOUGHT – in order to discern what is true and what is false.

Discussion Questions: Answers are Underlined

1. Is the Christian life safe? – It’s a paradox – an apparent contradiction. The only truly safe place in life is at the center of God’s will. But that place is surrounded by danger (Eph. 6:12; Rom. 13:12; 1 Pet. 5:8).
2. Why is there so much talk about weapons and warfare in the Bible? – The Christian life is compared to the life of a soldier going into battle, trained and equipped (Eph. 6:10-18; 1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 2:3-4).
3. What two kinds of weapons are described in this passage? – 1. Weapons of the world, 2. Weapons of divine power.
4. Which ones have limited power, and which ones have unlimited power? – The weapons of the world have limited power. But the weapons of divine power receive their power from God which is unlimited.
5. What does the word “divine” mean? – Relating to or proceeding from God. We say that God’s nature is divine (Rom. 1:20). We say that Jesus is divine or that He has divinity because He is God (John 1:1; 8:58; 10:30).
6. What does the word “demolish” mean? – To tear down, crush, smash, refute, disable, defeat or destroy.
7. What three things are demolished? – Strongholds (fortresses), arguments (speculations or false reasoning) and pretensions (arrogant and lofty things).

8. What does this passage mean by “strongholds”? – Anything that has a strong hold on your mind or heart.
9. How is a stronghold like a fortress or an addiction? – It is something that is built up over time and hard to tear down. It is built not of stone and mortar, but of ideas that hold on to the mind and the heart.
10. Are all strongholds bad? – No. For example, Paul said he is a slave unto Christ, a slave unto righteousness (Rom. 1:1; 6:16-18) Some strongholds help us hold fast to what is good, but some need to be torn down.
11. What is a “pretension”? – Any idea or claim that pretends to be true but is not (lofty, proud, arrogant obstacle).
12. What do these strongholds, arguments and pretensions have in common? – They are all false. They are lies.
13. How do we take hold of the weapons of divine power? – By taking every thought captive to obey Christ.
14. How do you take a thought captive? – By giving it the truth test. Is it true or is it false? If it’s a lie, we reject it and throw it out. But if it’s true, we accept it and allow it to become part of our beliefs.

Biblical & Theological Background:

1. Warfare is characteristic of this fallen world (James 4:1-2; Psalm 140:1-2).
2. Satan is engaged in spiritual warfare that opposes God (Eph. 6:12; 2 Cor. 4:4; Mark 4:15).
3. Satan attacks individual believers (Job 2:7; Luke 22:31-32; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pet. 5:8).
4. Satan is the Father of lies (Gen. 3:4-5; John 8:14; 2 Cor. 11:3,14; Rev. 12:9; 20:10).
5. The battle is against Satan, the world, & our sin nature (2 Cor. 4:4; 1 John 2:15-16; Rom. 7:18).
6. Spiritual victory is assured through Christ (Heb. 2:18; 2 Tim. 4:7; John 16:33; Rev. 17:14).

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the “Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life,” go to www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse on the Immanuel Christian School website.