

WORKBOOK

**FIGHTING
YOUR
BATTLES**

EVERY CHRISTIAN'S PLAYBOOK FOR VICTORY

**JONATHAN
EVANS**

WORKBOOK

**FIGHTING
YOUR
BATTLES**



**JONATHAN
EVANS**



HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS
EUGENE, OREGON

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. www.lockman.org.

Scripture quotations marked **esv** are taken from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked **niv** are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com. The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.®

Cover design by Faceout Studios, Spencer Fuller

Cover photo © subbery / Shutterstock

Interior design by KUHN Design Group

For bulk, special sales, or ministry purchases, please call 1-800-547-8979. Email: Customerservice@hhpbooks.com

 This logo is a federally registered trademark of the Hawkins Children's LLC. Harvest House Publishers, Inc., is the exclusive licensee of this trademark.

Fighting Your Battles Workbook

Copyright © 2022 by Jonathan Evans

Published by Harvest House Publishers

Eugene, Oregon 97408

www.harvesthousepublishers.com

ISBN 978-0-7369-8434-8 (pbk.)

ISBN 978-0-7369-8435-5 (eBook)

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, digital, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 / VP / 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

CONTENTS

Making the Most of This Workbook/Participant's Guide	7
SESSION 1: Understanding the Battle	9
SESSION 2: The God Above the Battle	21
SESSION 3: Fighting God's Way	33
SESSION 4: From Safe to Faith	45
SESSION 5: Prepare for the Forecast	55
SESSION 6: From Test to Testimony	67

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I'd like to thank my friends at Harvest House Publishers, particularly Bob Hawkins and Steve Miller, for their vision and support for this message I'm so passionate about. And thank you to Kim Moore, for coordinating everyone's efforts and seeing this project through to the finish.

I'm also grateful for Phil Warner, Will Irwin, and the rest of the team at RightNow Media for their excellence and expertise in producing the video that accompanies this workbook, as well as for steering the overall direction of the workbook itself—always with an eternal perspective in mind. I'm happy to team up with you guys anytime!

Finally, thank you to Kris Bearss, who collaborated so skillfully with me to adapt my content and ideas so that individuals and groups can study the Word, not just hear it and read it.

I pray that, through the collective use of our gifts, God will get the glory, turning these materials into tools that help every believer faithfully entrust their battles to the Lord so that they may stand firm and experience the victory He has already won.

MAKING THE MOST OF THIS WORKBOOK/ PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

This workbook and guide is a tool to help your group combine the video and subsequent Bible study into a dynamic growth experience. If you are the leader or facilitator of your group, take some time in advance to consider the questions in the Video Group Discussion and Group Bible Exploration sections of this guide, and then come up with personal examples to encourage discussion. Also make sure each individual has their own workbook, which will allow them to take notes during the group time as well as dig deeper on their own throughout the week.

Because every group session includes a video portion, think about the logistics. Before the session, ensure that everyone will be able to see the screen clearly and that the audio is set at a comfortable level. You don't want your group to miss anything.

Now let's preview the sections in each of the six sessions.

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

Several key points and quotes from the video are provided in this section, along with room to write notes.

VIDEO GROUP DISCUSSION

Many of the discussion questions have to do with remembering what was just viewed, and this immediate follow-up is important—we can forget content unless we review it right away. Other questions in this section try to connect the video to emotions or experience: *How did you feel when Jonathan said that? Is that true in your life? Do you have the same issue?*

GROUP BIBLE EXPLORATION

This is a Bible study, so each session is grounded in Scripture. And because different levels of faith may be found within your group, this time in the Bible is to not only grow but to help others find their faith.

IN CLOSING

The goal for every Bible study is to apply what's learned. This section highlights the main point of the session and challenges participants to dive deeper.

ON YOUR OWN BETWEEN SESSIONS

This section includes additional study that participants can do to keep the content they just learned fresh in their minds throughout the week, and it challenges participants to dive deeper.

RECOMMENDED READING

Your group time will be enhanced if everyone reads the recommended chapters in *Fighting Your Battles* by Jonathan Evans before the next session. Jonathan's video teaching follows the book, but the book has considerably more information and illustrations. Everyone is encouraged to prepare ahead by reading the designated chapters.



SESSION 1

UNDERSTANDING THE BATTLE

Every life has its battles. Jesus was up-front about that. He warned His followers, “Hey, don’t be surprised. In this world, you’re going to endure many troubles.” But He also assured the faithful again and again that these trials and tribulations aren’t a sign that God has abandoned them. Just the opposite. Throughout the Bible we see that the Lord has equipped and called each of us to fight—and win—those battles for our good and His glory.

Thankfully, He doesn’t expect any of us to achieve the victory ourselves. This entire study is geared toward the truth that *every battle of yours is His, and He has already overcome whatever (or whoever) is coming against you*. So there’s no need for worry or dread. God has the battle plan for each setting you’ll be sent into, He’s prepared the Playbook for each type of opponent you’ll face, and He is equipping you to conquer any obstacles that will ever stand in your way.

Over six sessions, author and speaker Jonathan Evans will revisit some of the Bible’s “battle-grounds” and “foxholes”—the situations and places where the faith of God’s people was severely tested. As he digs deep into the internal battles those believers fought, he’ll help each of us understand and prepare to conquer the challenges and challengers that *will* come our way. This is important because, in the middle of a storm...a wilderness...a pit...a bitter conflict, even seasoned warriors sometimes lose sight of the reality that really changes the game: the reality that if the Lord is with you, nothing and no one can defeat you. This study will help to train your soul in that truth, so that you’ll carry it with you like a banner and a shield wherever the Lord calls you.

Before you watch Jonathan’s first video, here’s an excerpt from the opening chapter of his book *Fighting Your Battles*. It centers on David’s tremendous declaration in 1 Samuel 17, just before he took on Goliath—and won:

“The battle is the LORD’s.” Those were David’s words (verse 47), but they have to be our battle cry too. Every battle we will ever face belongs to God.

In those times when the battle really beats you up and you get overwhelmed, it’s usually for one of two reasons: either you’re running into the fight on your own power or you’ve tried to own what isn’t yours.

Running toward the giant without God’s power is going to get you crushed. By yourself, you simply don’t possess what’s necessary in order to overcome. I don’t; David didn’t; my family didn’t [when my mom was diagnosed with cancer]. With God, however, every one of us possesses what’s necessary. We must enter the battle in His power.

The second reason we can end up overwhelmed is because we’ve taken the ownership role instead of the stewardship role. You and I are supposed to be stewards of the battle, not owners of the battle. So recognize who really owns it. This is one of those statements that takes the monkey off people’s backs. The One who owns it is Lord over it. The Owner has the power. He can defeat anyone or anything that comes against Him or His people.

No matter what others think, the battle is the Lord’s. No matter what the giant says about you, no matter how your family or your boss might doubt you, you cannot lose if the fight is His. You might look like a flea compared to the giant you’re up against, but looks don’t win.

The God of heaven and earth is with you. The Warrior of all the ages fights for you. The battle is the Lord’s.

Your victory is sure.

Fighting Your Battles, pages 28-29

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video, use the space on the next page to take notes. Some key points and quotables are provided as reminders.

Main Idea

- God chooses the faithful to face giants and to fight battles for our strengthening and for His kingdom. These difficult times are a part of every Christian’s calling.
- Because of Christ’s victory on the cross, anyone who puts their trust in Him is “more than a conqueror” before they ever step foot in the ring. God places you in situations where you can use your passion, your opportunities, your abilities, and your experiences to defeat any giant.

- Knowing that the win has already been won should give you a different view of both the battle and your giant. Others may be paralyzed by fear, or by the size of the problem, but those who are called see the size of the God who calls them instead.
- As you become surer of who you are in Christ, you'll recognize the ways God has equipped and prepared you to defeat the giant who is standing before you. Then, like David, you can run to the battle with full confidence that the Lord will fight for you.
- We overcome, not by our might, but God's.
- Personal Notes:

Application

If God has called you, then God is for you. And if God is for you, then you can be confident that no giant can stand against you.

Quotables

- A lot of Christians today are fighting for victory instead of fighting from victory. They don't understand the fact that we've already been called for this battle. We've already been called to overcome. We already have the call of "conqueror."
- All the things that you've overcome in your life are just to prepare you for this next moment, and to let you know that your calling is much bigger than your giant.
- The battle is necessary for the victory to be experienced.

VIDEO GROUP DISCUSSION

1. On each continuum below, mark an *X* where you would place yourself in response to the question.

How do you tend to view the giants in your life?

Opposition

Opportunity

How do you tend to view yourself when a giant shows up wanting to fight?

Victim

Victor

How do you tend to view your position when the giant shows up wanting to fight?

Called Out and Exposed

Called and Covered

How do you tend to view the words of the Lord as you prepare for battle?

Highly Questionable

Fully Reliable

How do you tend to view God in your battles?

Absent

Present

2. Besides the size of our opponents, what are some of the other characteristics of our giants that sidetrack us?

What concerns or barriers have you seen Satan use to keep people from recognizing who they are in the Lord? In what ways does the evil one blind us, limit us, or limit God's power in our minds and hearts?

3. For David, knowing that he'd been called to the battle *and* called to conquer affected everything as he was "entering the ring" to fight Goliath, including his preparation. Think of a particular opponent you've faced in the past. How would your preparation and approach have changed if you had trusted that the Lord had called you, equipped you, and would fight for you in that situation?

What difference does it make to know that the opponents and difficulties that come at us are never just random circumstance, and are often part of our calling from God?

4. One of the verses that serves as a foundation for Jonathan's teaching in this session is Romans 8:37. What do you think is meant by the assurance that we "overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us"? Why would the Lord describe our victory in these words?
5. Have someone read Romans 8:29-30 out loud, which is another key passage for this session. God has very intentionally "drafted" each person for His championship team. What does that say about how He views and values us?

GROUP BIBLE EXPLORATION

1. The people of Israel faced a different type of giant earlier in the Bible, as they were anticipating the Promised Land. Read and discuss these passages from the book of Numbers, when Moses sent twelve spies on a reconnaissance mission into enemy territory while the Israelites were in the wilderness. Then answer each question.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Send out men for yourself to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am going to give the sons of Israel; you shall send a man from each of their fathers' tribes, every one a leader among them." (13:1-2)

The Lord's instruction includes two important details—one about the land of Canaan and one about the men being chosen for the assignment. How should these two realities have set the tone for the entire group's mission?

2. Notice the differences in the reports of the spies after they returned from spying out the land:

- They brought back word to [Moses and Aaron] and to all the congregation... “We came into the land where you sent us, and it certainly does flow with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless, the people who live in the land are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large.” (13:26-28)
- Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, “We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will certainly prevail over it.” But the men who had gone up with him said, “We are not able to go up against the people, because they are too strong for us... The land through which we have gone to spy out is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are people of great stature... We were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight.” (13:30-33)
- Then all the congregation raised their voices and cried out, and the people wept that night. And all the sons of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron... [Joshua and Caleb] tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation..., saying, “The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the LORD is pleased with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us—a land which flows with milk and honey. Only do not rebel against the LORD; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection is gone from them, and the LORD is with us; do not fear them.” (14:1-2, 6-9)

How would you characterize the focus of each “faction”: the ten spies, Joshua and Caleb, and the congregation or community of Israelites?

The ten spies—

Joshua and Caleb—

The congregation—

What specific truths were Caleb and Joshua relying on? Where did their confidence come from?

Why do you think the people almost unanimously believed the bad report of the ten spies instead of Caleb and Joshua's good report, which aligned with the word of the Lord about Israel's future?

Why are longtime believers—and even Christian leaders—sometimes prone to doubt and panic despite God's promises-in-advance that we will win?

3. In Numbers 14, Caleb and Joshua are held up as godly examples who were rewarded for their faith (verses 30, 38). Specifically, the Lord said of Caleb: "Because he has had a different spirit and has followed Me fully, I will bring him into the land which he entered, and his descendants shall take possession of it" (verse 24).

What two qualities distinguished Caleb from the ten spies?

4. Many of the wins we read about in Scripture weren't just for the men and women of Bible times. In powerful verses like the ones below, God has promised His people victory today against their giants too. Read each one of these aloud:
 - "No weapon that is formed against you will succeed; and you will condemn every tongue that accuses you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their vindication is from Me," declares the LORD. (Isaiah 54:17)
 - Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)
 - You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

- Whoever has been born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. (1 John 5:4)

How can believers reset their focus and develop “a different spirit” so that the giants in life don’t intimidate them?

IN CLOSING

As you end the study today, share prayer requests related to the giants you’re each facing. Be honest about where you feel you need a more God-focused perspective or assurance of your calling. Ask the Holy Spirit to open up your heart throughout this study so you can receive the truths of Scripture and victoriously live out your faith. And rebuke the discouragement and fear that the enemy wants to put in your path.

Before Session 2, complete the “On Your Own Between Sessions” section below.

ON YOUR OWN BETWEEN SESSIONS

1. Have you ever believed you would win while a “giant” of an opponent was standing right in front of you? What was the source of your confidence? Ego? Faith? The “odds” being in your favor? Your own strength?

What was the outcome? What did you learn from that experience that better equipped you for the future?

2. Read each Bible passage below and answer:

- What was the believer's perspective?
- How did they view their position?
- What action(s) did they take as a result?

“After we had already suffered and been treated abusively in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition. . . . Just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not intending to please people, but to please God, who examines our hearts.” (1 Thessalonians 2:2-4)

Perspective:

Position:

Action:

“Fierce men stir up strife against me. . . . Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city. There they are, bellowing with their mouths with swords in their lips—for ‘Who,’ they think, ‘will hear us?’ But you, O LORD, laugh at them; you hold all the nations in derision. O my Strength, I will watch for you, for you, O God, are my fortress. My God in his steadfast love will meet me; God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.” (Psalm 59:3, 6-10 ESV)

Perspective:

Position:

Action:

“The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. . . . They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: ‘By what power or what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: ‘Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. . . . Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.’ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized

that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:5, 7-10, 12-13)

Perspective:

Position:

Action:

3. What's typically your goal in times of battle? To just survive? To feel as little pain as possible? To see what you're made of? To become stronger?

What might be God's goal by sometimes placing you in tough situations that are too big for you to handle alone?

4. How does it make you feel that the Lord is not only willing but actually *will* fight for you? What does it mean to you to have someone defend you and enter the ring with you?
5. Which people or circumstances in your life have actually or almost affected your battle perspective in a negative way? For example, who added excess weight, wanting you to wear their armor? Or what situation promoted a fear that you've carried with you?

What do you need to discard so that you can run to the battle exactly how God has equipped and prepared you?

6. David drew on his previous defeats of the lion and the bear as he considered how God would help him against Goliath. Why is remembrance of past victories with the Lord such an important part of a Christian's spiritual arsenal?

On page 26 of the book, Jonathan writes: “[David] ran toward the battle because, even though this challenger was bigger than the lion and the bear, David’s God was the Almighty, the Lord of heaven and earth, the faithful Deliverer who never fails. The Lord would do again what the Lord has always done.”

What are some of the things the Lord has always done for you, even before you gave your life to Him?

How has He prepared you through your past for the giant you're facing now?

Take courage in this! It's just one more proof that God will go with you!

7. Put your faith into practice. Whatever giant you're facing, pray Psalm 35:1-3 each day of this week as a reminder that your battle is the Lord's.

Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me;
Fight against those who fight against me.
Take hold of buckler and shield
And rise up as my help.
Draw also the spear and the battle-axe to meet those who pursue me;
Say to my soul, “I am your salvation.”

RECOMMENDED READING

In preparation for Session 2, please read chapters 2–3 in *Fighting Your Battles* by Jonathan Evans.