

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

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# SERMON SERIES

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TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

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## SERIES OVERVIEW FOR WARRIOR: Putting On The Whole Armor Of God

Welcome to the battlefield! Even though we may not realize or even understand it, as we wake up every morning, go to school, participate in activities, hang out with our friends, and live our daily lives, there is a spiritual battle raging all around us. While none of us can see spiritual warfare with our eyes, this spiritual battle is very real, and the stakes are incredibly high. As followers of Jesus, we are a part of this battle every single day, but most don't realize it, much less prepare for it. To be warriors, we must recognize this battle we are in, learn to put on our spiritual armor, and be ready to wield our one offensive weapon so that we can stand firm in our faith and overcome the enemy.

## "WARRIOR" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – The Battle (Ephesians 6:10-13) |** We are at war! While none can see the battle raging around us with our physical eyes, spiritual warfare is very real, and the stakes are incredibly high. As followers of Jesus, we are part of this battle every single day, but most of us don't even realize it, much less prepare for it. The Bible says that we are to be warriors in this spiritual battle, confident that Jesus has already won the war. As followers of Jesus, God has not left us helpless, hopeless, defenseless, or defeated. He's gifted us with armor and weaponry to experience victory in Jesus!
- **Session 2 – The Belt and the Breastplate (Ephesians 6:14) |** In physical battles, warriors must shield their vital organs from blows that would otherwise be fatal. In our daily spiritual battles, we must protect ourselves from the enemy's attacks by putting on the Belt of Truth and the Breastplate of Righteousness. This means recognizing God as the source of all truth, wrapping ourselves in the truth of Scripture daily, and knowing that our identity and righteousness come from Christ alone.
- **Session 3 – The Shoes and the Shield (Ephesians 6:15-16) |** As warriors in a daily spiritual battle, putting on the Shoes of the Gospel of Peace and taking up the Shield of Faith not only keeps us grounded by giving us a firm footing, but it helps us advance in the battle and in sharing the Gospel.
- **Session 4 – The Helmet and the Sword (Ephesians 6:17) |** Warriors in battle must protect their heads and often go on offense. In our daily spiritual battles, we must focus on Jesus and trust in Him. He is our Helmet of Salvation. We must also know God's Word, our Sword of Truth and greatest weapon.

## "WARRIOR" IS PART OF YM360'S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- "Master teacher" format

# BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE

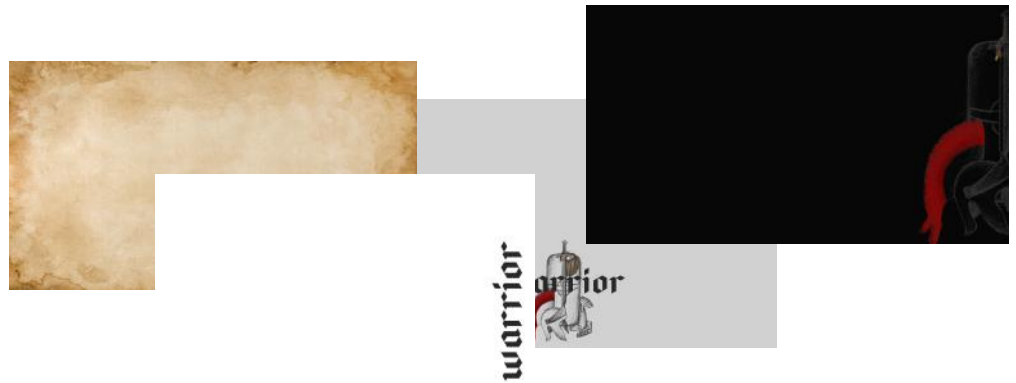


## EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

**BACKGROUND AND  
TITLE SLIDES**



**PROMOTIONAL  
ARTWORK**



**INSTAGRAM  
IMAGES**



**LOGO  
TREATMENT**



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

## **Warrior Sermon Series | Session 1: The Battle**

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**How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series** | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

**A Prayer Before You Prepare** | Heavenly Father, You are worthy of all my worship! I praise You for who You are and what You have done in my life. Thank You for creating me in Your image and for drawing me into a relationship with Yourself through the cross and the resurrection. It is a privilege to speak Your words to Your people, so please prepare me to share this message with the students at our church. Help me to internalize and personalize this message and to apply it to my own life before I share it with others. Then I pray that You would speak your Word powerfully through me as I communicate. Help our students to hear this message, understand it, and then apply it to their lives as they face the spiritual battles in their lives. Jesus, thank You for being the Ultimate Warrior and that You have already won the war. Help us to fight the battle well as we daily put on the spiritual armor You've already provide for us. Amen!

**Series Snapshot** | *Warrior* is a four-session sermon series that will help your students better understand and be prepared for the spiritual battle that rages all around us. Students will learn that, as

## Warrior Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

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followers of Jesus, we are all warriors in a daily high stakes spiritual battle, but we can have confidence because Jesus has already won the war. In addition, they'll learn to understand and utilize the different pieces of spiritual armor God has gifted us to fight this battle so that we can experience victory in Jesus.

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### Warrior Series | Session 1

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**Large Group Teaching Summary** | Even though we may not realize or even understand it, as we wake up every morning, go to school, hang out with our friends, and live our daily lives, there is a spiritual battle raging all around us. We are at war! While none of us can see spiritual warfare with our eyes, this spiritual battle is very real, and the stakes are incredibly high. However, we don't have to walk around defeated because we are warriors in a spiritual battle in which Jesus has already won the war!

**Key Takeaway** | We are warriors in a spiritual battle; confident that Jesus has already won the war.

**Scripture Focus** | Ephesians 6:10-13

**What You May Need** | *Optional illustration:* Video Clip from Any Appropriate Movie with a Big Battle Scene, *Optional illustration:* Images of Different Warriors, *Optional illustration:* Hunger Games Pic and Quote, *Optional illustration:* Stakes are High (personal story)

### I. Introduction

#### A. *Optional Illustration: Video Clip From An Appropriate Movie With A Big Battle Scene*

**Teacher's Note:** Just about everyone loves a great battle scene from a big, blockbuster movie! Pick a battle scene from one of your favorite movies that most students have seen and show it right before you get up to speak. Be sure to preview the clip as well as the rating to make sure it's appropriate for your group and not too long (under 2 minutes is probably best). One idea is to use the massive battle scene from *Avengers End Game*.

- B. Does anyone else love a good battle scene? Whether you've seen that movie 1000 times or not at all, you can probably appreciate how it's a massive fight between good and evil. Hopefully, you're rooting for the good guys to win, so if not, we should probably talk.
- C. I wanted to start with that clip tonight to get us in the mindset of what we're going to be talking about over the next few weeks in our new series we are calling *Warrior*.
- D. I'm not sure what all comes to mind when you hear the word "Warrior," but you probably have a very specific image that comes to mind.

#### E. *Optional Illustration: Images Of Different Warriors*

**Teacher's Note:** Google some images of different types of Warriors and put these up on a screen as you talk. Just make a quick reference to each one to get students thinking about warriors. Here are some ideas: *Medieval Knight, Modern-Day Soldier, Golden State Warriors, UFC Fighter, Ninja Warrior, Warrior Run, and Warrior Nun*. Pictures like this will help draw students in and set up for what you're going to talk about next: a different type of Warrior.

### II. Tension

- A. Whatever comes to mind when you hear the word Warrior, I'm guessing you probably don't think of yourself as a warrior – unless you're enlisted in the military or are secretly a UFC fighter on the weekends. You probably don't wake up every morning and put on armor or dress for battle. Fighting in a war is something that someone else does. It sounds like something reserved for a Seal Team fighting a war in another country.
- B. But what if we're wrong? What if we've misunderstood or completely missed what the real battle is actually all about? What if there's a war happening all around us that most of us don't even realize it's taking place?
- C. That's what we're going to talk about tonight and over the next several times together in this new series: *Warrior*.

### III. Scripture Background

- A. If you've got a Bible with you or a phone with a Bible app, locate the book of Ephesians (New Testament) chapter six.
- B. Ephesians is a letter that was written by the Apostle Paul, who used to be named Saul until he met Jesus and had his life radically changed.
- C. Paul wrote this letter to a group of Christians who were part of a church in a place called Ephesus. It was written to remind the readers and hearers of that time (and of today) who we are, who we're not, what God has done for us, and how we should live out our faith in this crazy culture we find ourselves swimming in.
- D. As you get to the last section of the letter to the Ephesians, Paul talks a lot about a battle that affects every single person reading the letter, including those of us in this room. It's not a battle that you can see with your eyes, and it's not fought with hand-held weapons like knives or guns. This battle isn't fought with tanks or planes or military forces either. But the battle that Paul describes in Ephesians is just as real as any war or battle in our history books or taking place in our world today. The stakes are just as high or even higher.
- E. Listen to what Paul said about this battle.

### IV. Big Idea

- A. Read EPHESIANS 6:10-12
- B. Here's the big idea that I want us to begin wrapping our minds around: YOU ARE A WARRIOR IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE, CONFIDENT THAT JESUS HAS ALREADY WON THE WAR.
- C. Let's begin by unpacking that first part of the big idea: YOU ARE A WARRIOR IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE.
  - 1. Look back at verse 12. It says this is not a physical battle against "flesh-and-blood enemies" but rather a spiritual battle against "evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world" and "mighty powers in this dark world."
  - 2. As you say it out loud, it sounds like something from one of the *Marvel* movies, but it has nothing to do with the *Avengers* or any superhero movie for that matter. Instead, it's a battle that is very real and plays out every single day regardless of whether we see it or not. Most of us don't even realize it's happening because it takes place at a spiritual level, but all of us who claim to follow Jesus are participating in this battle. This is true whether or not we believe it, understand it, care about it, or want to participate in it.
  - 3. So remember who you are: You are a warrior in a spiritual battle, but Jesus has already won the war. We're going to come back to this last part in a few minutes but let's talk a little more about this spiritual battle.



- D. Here are four realities about the spiritual battle that you need to understand if you're going to have victory in the battle.
1. THE ENEMY IS REAL
    - a) In verse 11, it says our enemy's name is the devil. We also know him as Satan, Lucifer, the father of lies, and an enemy of God.
    - b) When you think about the devil, you may picture a little man in a red suit with a pitchfork and a little pointy tail, but nothing could be further from the truth. Listen to how Scripture describes him.
    - c) Read 2 CORINTHIANS 11:14 and 1 PETER 5:8.
    - d) Our adversary, the devil, is not a fairy tale or make-believe. He is very much a real entity. He is opposed to God in every way, and he is actively engaged in this spiritual battle with you that we're talking about.
    - e) Just to be clear, Satan is not a joke, he is not a myth, he is not a cartoon, and he is not something to play with. As a follower of Jesus who has been saved through Christ's death on the Cross, Satan is not someone to be feared. Satan has been defeated. Jesus won that battle at the cross. But Satan is also not someone that you need to blow off or roll your eyes at. His goal is to do as much harm to you as he can. He wants nothing more than to take you down by any means necessary and try to turn you away from following the Lord. Satan is the great liar. He loves to whisper untruths or partial truths to you. He loves to take what God has created for good and twist it. He's excellent at sowing doubt and making you question God or God's best. He's a master at deception, trying to convince you that God's best isn't really what you want, God's way isn't really the only way, or that God maybe doesn't love or care for you as much as He says that He does. He did it to Adam and Eve in the garden, and he's still whispering the same twisted half-truths to you and me today.
- E. SATAN'S STRATEGY IS CLEAR
1. At the end of verse 11, it talks about the "strategies of the devil." A strategy is a plan of action, and in this context, it's a strategy of how the enemy is trying to win the battle. Listen to what Scripture says about his strategy.
  2. Read JOHN 8:44 and JOHN 10:10
  3. That's the strategy of our enemy: to lie, to steal, to kill, and to destroy. The way he goes about this is not what you would expect. It's in subtle ways, so you won't even know it's him.
  4. He's going to lie to you about what's true and make you think life is all about you or that God is holding out on you. He's going to look for ways to steal your purity by suggesting you compromise your standards. He's going to try to destroy your relationships by encouraging you to fight with one another.
  5. **Optional Illustration: The Hunger Games**

**Teacher's Note:** *If your students are familiar with the Hunger Games series, you could share a brief illustration here. Look for a pic of the main character (Katniss Everdeen) and give a brief synopsis of the movie. Talk about the battle against the evil capital (District 1) and their strategy to get people to fight one another during the games. In the movie, Katniss is given some great advice by her*

*mentor (Haymitch): "When you're in the arena, remember who the real enemy is." Remind students that in the same way, when it comes to the spiritual battle, we need to remember who the real enemy is and stop fighting with one another.*

### F. THE BATTLEFIELD IS EVERYWHERE.

1. In a typical war, there are guns, tanks, and planes. The battlefield is obvious. It may be over a particular city, country, or ocean but the battle is over a specific geographical area with longitude and latitude coordinates.
2. However, in the battle we're talking about tonight, the battlefield is much bigger. It's at your school, on your team, in your home, with your friend groups, in the people you date, and even right here at church. No area is off-limits as this battle happens in our minds and in our hearts.

### G. THE STAKES ARE HIGH.

1. If you've ever played in a big game for your team, you know what it means that the stakes are high. Maybe your team is known for losing, but this season is different. You've played hard all season long, and against all odds, you've finally made it into the championship game. This is now your moment to prove to yourself and the rest of the world that you belong here. The stakes are high.
2. Or maybe it's about a big test at school. You've struggled all semester long and are on the borderline of failing a class, but this one test can change everything. If you do well, you could pull your grade up, pass the class, and all will be right with the world again. If not, then this could mean failing the test, possibly failing the class, and definitely getting grounded by your parents. The stakes are high.
3. If the stakes are high in a game or for a test, imagine how much higher they are when it comes to this spiritual battle and for eternity.
4. **Optional Illustration: Personal Story**

***Teacher's Note:** You could share a story about when the stakes were high on a mission trip or when you were sharing the gospel with someone. I shared about a mission trip to India when we saw people literally bowing down to false gods. As we prayed and shared the gospel, there was a clear recognition that this was a spiritual battle for the souls of people, and the stakes were high. It's the same way now in the spiritual battles that we face every single day.*

5. Listen to how Paul described the enemy and his mission in this spiritual battle. Read 2 CORINTHIANS 4:4

H. I know this is all heavy stuff we're talking about in this first session together when it comes to the spiritual battles. It might be easy to be overwhelmed or to walk around defeated. You might even be tempted to worry that somehow the enemy is winning the war around you or in your life. If that's you, then I've got some really good news for you tonight: JESUS HAS ALREADY WON THE WAR! It's not a competition or even a fair fight: Jesus already defeated Satan many years ago at the Cross of Calvary.

1. Read COLOSSIANS 2:15.

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2. This is really good news for all of us here tonight because the war has already been won. While we still face the daily reality of spiritual battles, we don't have to live like we're defeated. Instead, you need to remember who we are, who God is, and what He has already done for us. You are a warrior in a spiritual battle, but Jesus has already won the war.
- I. This BIG IDEA has two massive implications for everyone in the room tonight. Before we wrap up, I want to share this with you as both an encouragement and a challenge.

### V. Application

#### A. WE CAN RESIST THE ENEMY AND STAND FIRM IN OUR FAITH.

1. Look back at Ephesians 6:10, that we read earlier. It says, "Be strong in the Lord and His mighty power," then in verse 11 it says, "Stand firm against all the strategies of the devil." This is saying that even in the midst of the battle and even when it's really hard, we can resist and stand firm in our faith.
2. Check out the next verse after this. Read EPHESIANS 6:13
3. This ought to be a huge encouragement for all of us. We don't have to walk around defeated, deflated, helpless and hopeless. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ through putting your trust in Him, remember who you are. You are a warrior in a spiritual battle.
4. As a warrior, you've got to prepare yourself for battle. No soldier heads into battle in shorts, flip-flops, and a tank top. Instead, you dress the part. You train for battle and show up ready with your armor on and your weapons in hand. The same is true for us in this battle we face.

#### B. WE CAN FIGHT SPIRITUAL BATTLES WITH SPIRITUAL ARMOR.

1. The next few verses talk about the different pieces of the spiritual armor that are gifted to us, as Christians, by God. It uses the imagery of a Roman soldier, fully dressed in armor and ready for battle.
2. Read EPHESIANS 6:14-18
3. Over the next few weeks of this series, we're going to break down the six pieces of our spiritual armor mentioned in these verses. We'll talk about what it is and how we can use it every single day to stand firm in the midst of this spiritual battle.

### VI. Closing

- A. I encourage you to be here every week of this series, to listen, take notes, and apply what you're learning. I also want to give you a really high challenge that I hope some of you will take me up on during this series. I want to challenge you to memorize this section of Scripture we'll be studying, EPHESIANS 6:10-18. I know it's a lot, but I'm confident you can do it, and I believe God will use this in your life to help you fight this spiritual battle.
- B. As we wrap up, remember who you are.
  1. You are a warrior in a spiritual battle. The enemy is real. His strategy is clear.
  2. The battlefield is literally everywhere, and the stakes are high.

## Warrior Sermon Series | Session 1: The Battle

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3. But we don't have to walk around helpless and defeated because Jesus has already won the war. At the cross, He overcame the power of sin and death so that we can resist the enemy and stand firm in our faith.
  4. The way we do that is by fighting spiritual battles with spiritual armor, which we will talk more about in the coming weeks.
- C. As for tonight, how does the Lord want you to respond to what you've heard?
1. If you're already a follower of Christ, are you putting on spiritual armor every day to fight the battle?
  2. If there has never been a time when you've put your trust in Christ, you can do that tonight but choosing to turn from sin and put your trust in Jesus and what He did for you at the cross.
- D. Let's Pray!

## Warrior Sermon Series | Session 1 Discussion Questions: The Battle

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**Warrior Series Overview** | Welcome to the battlefield! Even though we may not realize or even understand it, as we wake up every morning, go to school, participate in activities, hang out with our friends, and live our daily lives, there is a spiritual battle raging all around us. While none of us can see spiritual warfare with our eyes, this spiritual battle is very real, and the stakes are incredibly high. As followers of Jesus, we are a part of this battle every single day, but most don't realize it, much less prepare for it. To be warriors, we must recognize this battle we are in, learn to put on our spiritual armor, and be ready to wield our one offensive weapon so that we can stand firm in our faith and overcome the enemy.

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**Scripture Focus** | Ephesians 6:10-13

## Warrior | Session 1 Discussion Questions

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### Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking

1. What is the best battle scene from any movie you've ever seen?
2. If you were to ever serve in the military, what do you think would be your area of expertise?

### Discussion Questions

1. What do you think about when you hear the word "Warrior"? Have you ever thought of yourself as a warrior?
2. Read Ephesians 6:10-13. How would you describe the battle in these verses?
3. How do you picture the devil? How do your friends, TV, movies, or social media depict the devil? How would you describe the enemy based on Scripture? Look back at 2 Corinthians 11:14 and 1 Peter 5:8. Do you think you and those around you make too much of the devil (live in fear of him) or make too little of him (ignore him)?
4. How would you describe the strategy of the enemy? Look back at John 8:44 and John 10:10. What does this look like today in your home, at your school, on your team, with your friend group, in your dating or social life?

## **Warrior Sermon Series | Session 1 Discussion Questions: The Battle**

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5. What lies or twisting of the truth does the enemy use against you the most? Why do you think those particular attacks are so effective on you? What are some lies or untruths that you are struggling with right now?
6. What does it mean that the battlefield is everywhere? Where are some specific areas in your life where you have seen this battle play out?
7. What are the “stakes” in this battle, and why are they so high? Look back at 2 Corinthians 4:4.
8. In what sense has Jesus already won the war? What does this mean to us? Look back at Colossians 2:15.
9. What are we told to do in Ephesians 6:13, and how can we do this practically?
10. What is one way to apply something you learned in session one to your life this week?