

**Sunday, Oct. 14: Snodgrasses for Missionaries**

Memory Verse: "All have sinned and fall short of God's glory." -Romans 3:23

Message Title: Join the Rebellion: The Real Star Wars! "Fighting Blind"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

Blurb: We live in the physical world, but our hope comes from outside of this world. When we choose to follow Jesus, we have a power from the spiritual world that breaks into our daily lives. We fight using what we cannot see. Although we can't see it, it is just as real, and it changes our reality. This Sunday we'll learn about the gift and power of the Holy Spirit God has given us. It is a force that is with us!

**Opening Song:** *Spirit of Faith, Come Down* - Sanctify

**Welcome:** -Pastor David  
Storms of life - hurricane

**Memory Verse:**  
"All have sinned and fall short of God's glory." -Romans 3:23

**Worship Music Set:** - Sanctify  
*Only King Forever*  
*Holy Spirit*  
*Living Hope*  
Worship Prayer - Andrew

**Love Moment:** Missionaries - Andrew  
Education and Discipleship among the unreached in Central Asia  
Nathan, Shelly & 4 kids: 7th grader girl, 5th grader boy, 4th grader girl, and 1st grader girl  
World Venture: Conservative Baptist. 11 years in Kazakhstan. Home on furlough

**Grow Moment:** Keep giving regular giving! - David

**Serve Moment:** Hurricane relief - David, Colleen

**Kid's Lesson:** The Winds of the Spirit - Andrew

**Prayers:** David?

**Offering** - Snodgrasses

**Message Bumper** (30 seconds)

**PP#1: Join the Rebellion: The Real Star Wars**

**Fighting Blind**

“Although we live in the world, we don’t fight our battles with human methods. Our weapons that we fight with aren’t human, but instead they are powered by God for the destruction of fortresses.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

Join the Rebellion: The Real Star Wars. “Fighting Blind.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 “Although we live in the world, we don’t fight our battles with human methods. Our weapons that we fight with aren’t human, but instead they are powered by God for the destruction of fortresses.”

**PP#2: Image for “May the Fourth be with you.”**

Did you know that there is an official Star Wars Day? It has been declared to be May the fourth. Who here observed it this past year...in how you dressed, watching clips or movies, shared a meme, posted a picture, or by greeting others with that catchphrase?

The rest of you, non-Star Wars folks, do you get it?

It’s a play on one of the most famous movie quotes of all time, and it comes from Star Wars. Say the phrase with me, would you? Here we go, “May the force be with you!”

Star Wars, you see, is set in a galactic struggle between good and evil. There is this unseen power struggle between The Force and The Dark Side, that comes out in each person, in the affairs of daily life. The Force calls people to act nobly, live selflessly, and use the power for good. The Dark Side, however, feeds off hate, anger, fear, and revenge.

**PP#3: Image for The Force vs The Dark Side**

We’re using the wildly popular Star Wars universe to illustrate biblical truths in real life. It’s helpful not only because it can remind us of what we truly believe as Christians, but we can draw those connections for others in our daily lives as a way of sharing our faith. It gives us a conversation starter. It helps us speak the language of the culture, and still share about our faith.

And The Force is a huge connection to our Christian faith.

There is a real star wars: evil led by Satan, called the Morning Star, or Lucifer, verses the inbreaking hope of salvation that comes in Jesus, and announced by the Star of Bethlehem. This galactic battle between good and evil is real in our universe, and it is played out in each of our lives, in each of our days, in each of our hearts!

Satan does try to lead us down the wrong path: wrong, but yet playing on our feelings and ambitions and our self-justification. Evil is constantly tempting you to contort all things selfishly, because each time we do, God loses.

God wants us free, living abundantly, living as the people He made us to be. And that happens only when we choose God, and follow His path of life for us. Evil lies to us, telling us we should have what we want, that it is really all about us, and then we will finally be happy. But it is also a lie, because even for evil, it’s not about us. Evil doesn’t care about us, it uses us to hurt God by calling us away from God.

God, however, does care about us, to the extreme that Jesus came and died to give us full and abundant life. A cutting question, as we struggle between good and evil, is what has Satan ever done for you?

**PP#4:** *Scene of the Evil Emperor killing Luke, with Darth Vader there, too.*

Two weeks ago, we watched the video clip from *Return of the Jedi*, when Darth Vader brought Luke Skywalker to the Evil Emperor. Do you remember what the Evil Emperor said? Luke must kill Darth Vader, and replace him as the Emperor's new sidekick. Think for a minute, about Darth Vader. All that time he had been serving the Emperor. Then, when Luke came along, the Emperor wanted to upgrade by replacing Vader with Luke. The Emperor was only using Vader all along! What a great illustration of evil!

This is so true in the real world! What has Satan ever done for you? But then ask, what has Jesus ever done for you? What a cutting revelation! Evil uses us; God loves us.

**PP#5:** "May the Lord be with you" *written in Star Wars font.*

One of the easiest connections from Star Wars to the Christian faith, is the Force. We really do have a Force for good, a power that works God's plan in our lives. But it's not an abstract power that we use or control. It's the person of God we call The Holy Spirit.

We struggle against evil in our world, and in our own persons, but we don't struggle just with our own wills. In fact, when left just up to us, evil always wins. We cannot *not* follow it, because our wills are already bent and selfish. You cannot trust your feelings, your gut, your instincts. They are carnal and selfish.

But we are not left on our own! God comes down to us, and even comes into us, to give us the strength, the power, the guidance, the wisdom, all that we need to succeed. When we choose Jesus, He gives us the Holy Spirit; God comes down into us, to live with us, day by day.

Obi Wan begins training Luke in the ways of the force. At first, Luke can't figure it out. Obi Wan tells Luke that what is real just isn't what you can see. In fact, you can't trust just what you see. Take a look at this clip from the first Star Wars movie.

**Video Clip:** Ep IV: but with the blast shield down... ("Your eyes can deceive you, don't trust them")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owvpRNzoaVU> (0:52 minutes)

**PP#6:** Fighting Blind

1. We can't see the Spirit, but He's real

Now, like the Force in Star Wars, we cannot see the Holy Spirit. We can't see Him, but He's real! But unlike the Force in Star Wars, the Holy Spirit—as Andrew demonstrated—blows where He wills. We are not in charge of Him. We put Him in charge of us. He is the person of God that is with us, and in us. Our desire is to follow the Holy Spirit within us, not the selfish desires of evil.

Turn to your Bibles, to 1 Corinthians 2. This is a rather involved passage, that Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth. He's trying to explain to them how the spiritual world is real, even though we can't see it. God's message of salvation is hard to understand, hard to see, when looked at from worldly eyes. But even though we can't see it, it's real!

**PP#7:** 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 (CEB)

6 What we say is wisdom to people who are mature. It isn't a wisdom that comes from the present day or from today's leaders who are being reduced to nothing. 7 We talk about God's

wisdom, which has been hidden as a secret. God determined this wisdom in advance, before time began, for our glory. 8 It is a wisdom that none of the present-day rulers have understood, because if they did understand it, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory!

1 Corinthians 2, verse 6. “What we say [the message of Jesus] is wisdom to people who are mature [who are open to receiving it]. It isn’t a wisdom that comes from the present day or from today’s leaders who are being reduced to nothing. [They are busy working with concerns that won’t last.] 7 We talk about God’s wisdom, which has been hidden as a secret. [It’s unknown unless you’ve heard about Jesus.] God determined this wisdom [salvation in Jesus] in advance, before time began, for our glory. [God knew beforehand that the people He created would fall and need salvation.] 8 It is a wisdom that none of the present-day rulers have understood, because if they did understand it, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory!” If they realized that Jesus was the Savior, and God Himself, they certainly would not have crucified Him!

**PP#8:** 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 (CEB)

9 But this is precisely what is written: God has prepared things for those who love Him that no eye has seen, or ear has heard, or that haven’t crossed the mind of any human being. 10 God has revealed these things to us through the Spirit. The Spirit searches everything, including the depths of God. 11 Who knows a person’s depths except their own spirit that lives in them? In the same way, no one has known the depths of God except God’s Spirit. 12 We haven’t received the world’s spirit but God’s Spirit so that we can know the things given to us by God.

Verse 9, “But this is precisely what is written: God has prepared things for those who love Him that no eye has seen, or ear has heard, or that haven’t crossed the mind of any human being. [We couldn’t have made this up!] 10 God has revealed these things to us through the Spirit. [Jesus is now gone back to glory, but the Holy Spirit testifies inside of us that this is true.] The Spirit searches everything, including the depths of God. 11 Who knows a person’s depths except their own spirit that lives in them? In the same way, no one has known the depths of God except God’s Spirit. [The Spirit knows all about God, because He is God’s Spirit.] 12 We haven’t received the world’s spirit but God’s Spirit so that we can know the things given to us by God.” We have the Holy Spirit within us to teach us all we need to know about God and salvation and living each day.

**PP#9:** 1 Corinthians 2:6-16 (CEB)

13 These are the things we are talking about—not with words taught by human wisdom but with words taught by the Spirit—we are interpreting spiritual things to spiritual people. 14 But people who are unspiritual don’t accept the things from God’s Spirit. They are foolishness to them and can’t be understood, because they can only be comprehended in a spiritual way. 15 Spiritual people comprehend everything, but they themselves aren’t understood by anyone. 16 Who has known the mind of the Lord, who will advise him? But we have the mind of Christ.

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to them and can't be understood, because they can only be comprehended in a spiritual way. 15 Spiritual people comprehend everything, but they themselves aren't understood by anyone. [You can't truly understand it until you accept it by faith.] 16 Who has known the mind of the Lord, who will advise him? But we have the mind of Christ."

Abundant and eternal life, this spiritual truth of salvation, this comes only through Jesus, taught by the invisible Holy Spirit given into each of us. And because we have Him, we have in us the mind of Christ. We can know what Jesus wants, what Jesus thinks we ought to do. We have direct access to God!

This is so much better than a Force that we have to master and wield. We have the full presence of God given into us! His Spirit is in you. You can know what is good, and you have been given the power to follow it. Not in your own strength, but by the Holy Spirit in you!

**PP#10:** 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 (CEB)

"Although we live in the world, we don't fight our battles with human methods. Our weapons that we fight with aren't human, but instead they are powered by God for the destruction of fortresses."

Paul writes to the Christians in Corinth again later. He revisits his teaching on the mysteries of God and the Holy Spirit. He writes, "Although we live in the world, we don't fight our battles with human methods. Our weapons that we fight with aren't human, but instead they are powered by God for the destruction of fortresses."

As you struggle with your temptations and selfish nature rearing within you, fight with the Holy Spirit God has given you! Our human weapons, our will power, our conviction to change and be different, don't work. Instead of fighting in your own power, let the Holy Spirit fight on your behalf. He will break down your temptations, your addictions, your emotional reactions.

One of our greatest problems as Jesus followers is that we don't live by the Spirit as we could. We get lulled into complacency because we have His protection against evil, and so we don't depend on His Spirit as we ought. We tend to live by what we see, rather than by the spiritual realities we can't see. And we limit our openness to the Spirit's leading and power-blowing as He will—in our lives.

In the third movie, Jedi Master Yoda is training Luke Skywalker in the ways of the Force. Listing to what Yoda teaches Luke.

**Video Clip:** Ep. 5: Yoda teaching Luke

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1hCMKav3LE> (1:26 minutes)

There is some real wisdom there, actually, for a Hollywood movie. I love it when Luke asks, how can you know the difference between the Force and the Dark Side? Yoda tells Luke, "You will know when you are calm, at peace" ... when you're thinking straight, not with your emotions. That is really good advice to us all! It's true for us as Christians. We sense God's leading when we are calm, and not thinking with our feelings.

**PP#11:** Fighting Blind

1. We can't see the Spirit, but He's real
2. Develop your spiritual senses

We have what science calls our five senses: sight, smell, taste, hearing, and touch. But these are all observable in our physical world. When we choose Jesus, the Holy Spirit within us develops non-empirical senses. But you must train! These senses are difficult to understand at first. But with time and practice, you can develop them. You begin to sense when God is at work. When you are calm, you sense a peace about a choice you have to make. People keep asking me, “How will I know what God wants me to do.” When I answer, I sound like Yoda, “You will just know,” or should I say, “Just know, you will.” Start by giving it to God, and then continue to lift it to God whenever you think about it. You will spiritually sense God at work. I can’t explain it. It’s a spiritual sense. And it only comes over time, noticing how God works. You begin to get a sense of God’s desire. Reese and I say it this way, “Hmmm, this smells like God.”

I had a good friend tell me one time that she suddenly felt an “urge” to walk up to a stranger and give him the gallon of milk she just bought. Notice she said, “urge.” She said, “I can’t explain it, but I knew it was God. I had been praying while driving for God to show me how I could help someone, and I saw this man come out of his house. I had an overwhelming sense I needed to give him my milk. I knew it was God. I’ve sensed things like this before. So, I pulled over, and as I gave him the milk, I said, ‘I think God wanted me to give you this.’ He looked at me in shock, and then told me that his girlfriend told him he needed to find a way to get some milk for their toddler.” He had no money, but they really needed milk. He stepped out the door, not knowing what to do. And then my friend walks up to him and hands him a gallon of milk. Hmmm...smells like God!

I was leading the youth group in my previous church, and we were on a trip. We were walking through a tourist area, and we decided to go into a certain gift shop. I led the way, and walked through the door. I remember looking up at the owner behind the counter, and I got an instant chill down my neck. I stopped and looked at him. His eyes seemed weird. I couldn’t place it. But I had the welling up sense of a bad spiritual presence. I turned around and blocked the rest from coming in. “Let’s try another shop,” I suggested. And as we walked past the windows, I saw all kinds of weird crystals and strange religious signs. My spiritual sense noticed it before my empirical senses did. That smelled like God!

One more. A pastor friend of mine was struggling with viewing bad content on the internet. He confided in me that he just couldn’t stop. It was so bad that it was ruining his marriage. We prayed together, and then he went and sought counseling. It was a long and difficult journey. But I spoke with him again just last week. He told me that as he fought in his own strength, the Lord also fought in him through the power of the Holy Spirit. He said that now he no longer has an attraction to viewing that kind of content. The Lord had taken away its appeal. Now, he had to work at it. He had to continually turn to the Lord for help. He had to relinquish to the Spirit’s power His daily fight. But over time, his spiritual senses grew, and he had victory.

“Although we live in the world, we don’t fight our battles with human methods. Our weapons that we fight with aren’t human, but instead they are powered by God for the destruction of fortresses.” (2 Corinthians 10:3-4)

### **PP#12: Fighting Blind**

1. We can’t see the Spirit, but He’s real
2. Develop your spiritual senses
3. May the Holy Spirit be with you!

As Jesus followers, we are equipped with the Holy Spirit. We can’t physically see the spiritual reality we live in, and we cannot see the Holy Spirit, either. But He is real, and so is the

spiritual reality of our world. We have access to the spiritual forces of God, and we have His very presence in us. *We fight what we can't see with what we can't control.* We fight blind.

So, we need to grow in our spiritual power, and develop our spiritual senses. We do that through daily prayer and Bible reading, developing a ongoing mindfulness of the Holy Spirit with us, consistently lifting to God our struggles, our needs, our temptations, our failures, and letting the Holy Spirit guide us and fight for us. It's a spiritual openness, that comes through ongoing prayers. It's living in a way that lets the Holy Spirit lead, guide, and direct all that you do. It's stepping out in faith, trusting the Spirit will guide you. And over time, you will climb mountains, get through valleys, and you will become a mature, spiritual warrior for God. You can do it, but you need the Holy Spirit!

So, to close, then, turn to one another, and bless each other by saying, "May the Holy Spirit be with you." Stand, turn to your neighbor, and bless them.

[Amen.]

**Closing Song:** *He Lives* - Sanctify

**Memory Verse:**

"All have sinned and fall short of God's glory." -Romans 3:23

**Announcements:**

- Wednesday evening
- Small Groups

**Benediction:** -Pastor David