

New Beginnings Christian Fellowship

**Lent Bible Study 2026**

Theme:

**Spiritual Power to Survive, Confront, and Defeat Evil Powers**

**Thursdays February 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26**

**7:00 pm weekly**

Overview

Almost every word of scripture in the Judeo-Christian Biblical canons were written by members of faith and ethnic communities who were targeted peoples within brutal and unjust empires. These empires included the Egyptian, Medes, Babylonian, Persian, Greek, and Roman. Each of these empires featured corrupt political cultures driven by autocratic rulers with unchecked powers; wide-spread economic corruption in an unregulated marketplace; human exploitation of the very worst kinds including, slavery and sex trafficking; annihilation and/or enslavement of the people in conquered lands; organized violence against their own citizens for the purpose of social control. Religious and ethnic minorities were particularly targeted for oppression and persecution by authorities and the members of the empires dominant groups whenever it appeared that the members of minority groups resisted or refused compliance with the laws, customs, religious rituals, or edicts of the empire. Or if members of minority communities were perceived in any way to be a threat to the lifestyle or the strategic interests of the empire.

Against this socio-political background, the Judeo-Christian scriptures were written. There is an argument to be made that the scriptures are in essence a compilation of subversive writings by individuals from faith communities who existed in brutal empires and whose faith empowered them to survive, to confront, and to defeat the evil powers they faced.

**WEEK 1 — The Source of Power: The Spirit of the Lord**

Scripture Focus

Zechariah 4:1–7; Acts 1:8; John 14:15–18; Ephesians 3:14–21; Romans 8:1–11; Galatians 5:16–25; Isaiah 40:28–31

Theme: **You cannot fight evil powers with human strength alone.**

Teaching Overview

This week establishes the foundational truth: ***God's Spirit is the most essential source of power.*** We explore how the Spirit of God strengthens, guides, teaches, and transforms believers.

### Preparations for February 26 Class

- Complete the daily readings, prayers, and self-reflections from **Days 1–7**.
- Journal: “Where do I need the Spirit’s power most right now?”

### Group Discussion Questions

1. What does “*Not by might, nor by power*” mean in your daily life?
2. Where do you tend to rely on your own strength instead of the Spirit?
3. What does a *Spirit-led* life look like practically?
4. Which fruit of the Spirit is most challenging for you to walk in?

### Group Assignment: “**Spirit Strength Map**”:

As a group, create a chart listing areas where you need spiritual strength (e.g., patience, courage, discipline).

Discuss how the Spirit of God empowers you in each area.

## **WEEK 2 — The Reality of Evil Power**

### Scripture Focus

Ephesians 6:10–13; 1 Peter 5:6–10; John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 10:3–5; Job 1:6–12; Matthew 4:1–11; Psalm 27

Theme: ***Evil is real, but it is not ultimate.***

### Teaching Overview

This week helps believers understand the nature of spiritual warfare, the enemy’s strategies, and the believer’s position in Christ.

### Preparations for March 5<sup>th</sup> Class

- Complete daily readings, prayers, and reflections for **Days 8-14**.
- Journal: “What stronghold or lie is God exposing in me?”

### Group Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to acknowledge the reality of spiritual warfare?
2. What are some modern “schemes of the enemy”?
3. How do strongholds form in the mind?
4. How does Jesus’ temptation model spiritual resistance?

### Group Assignment    **“Expose the Scheme” Exercise**

In small groups, identify one common scheme of the enemy (fear, division, temptation, discouragement). Discuss how Scripture counters it.

## **WEEK 3 — Surviving the Battle**

### Scripture Focus

Psalm 91; Isaiah 54:17; 2 Timothy 1:6–12; Exodus 14:10–14; Psalm 23; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Jude 24–25

Theme: *God equips you to endure and survive attacks.*

### Teaching Overview

This week focuses on God’s protection, endurance, and sustaining grace. Believers learn how to stand firm when under pressure.

### Preparations for March 12 Class

- Complete daily readings, prayers, and self-reflections for **Days 15-21**.
- Journal: “Where is God calling me to stand instead of run?”

### Group Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean for God to be your refuge?
2. How has God protected you in past seasons?
3. What does “standing still” look like in a crisis?
4. Where do you feel most vulnerable spiritually?

### Group Assignment **“Survival Testimony Circle”**

Each person shares a moment when God helped them survive a difficult season.

Group identifies common themes of God’s faithfulness.

## **WEEK 4 — Confronting Evil Power**

### Scripture Focus

Luke 10:17–20; Mark 5:1–20; Acts 16:16–18; James 4:7–10; Revelation 12:7–11; 1 John 4:1–6; Psalm 35

Theme: *Not reacting to evil with fear. But confronting evil with Spirit-given authority.*

### Teaching Overview

This week teaches believers how to walk in spiritual authority, discern spirits, and resist the enemy effectively.

### Preparations for March 19<sup>th</sup> Class

- Complete daily readings, prayers, and self-reflections for **Days 22-28**.
- Journal: “Where do I need to walk in greater authority?”

### Group Discussion Questions

1. What does spiritual authority mean to you?
2. Why is submission to God essential before resisting the enemy?
3. How do you discern between spiritual and natural issues?
4. What role does testimony play in overcoming evil?

### Group Assignment **“Authority in Action” - Role-Play**

In pairs, practice responding to spiritual challenges (fear, temptation, confusion) using Scripture and prayer.

## **WEEK 5 — Living in Victory**

### Scripture Focus

Colossians 2:13–15; Hebrews 2:14–18; Romans 8:31–39; 1 Samuel 17; 2 Chronicles 20; Romans 16:17–20; Psalm 18

### Theme ***Christ has already secured the victory.***

### Teaching Overview

This week shifts from battle to “*victory mindset*”. Believers learn to live from Christ’s triumph, not toward it.

### Preparations for March 26<sup>th</sup> Class

- Complete daily readings, prayers, and self-reflections for **Days 29-35**.
- Journal: “What victory is God inviting me to walk in?”

### Group Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to live from victory instead of for victory?
2. How does worship function as a weapon?
3. What “giants” are you facing right now?
4. How does God crush the enemy under our feet?

### Group Assignment **“Victory Declaration Board”**

Create a board or shared document where each person writes a victory declaration based on