

Discussion Guide: January 25th, 2026

Series: *War Ready*

Message: *Sword of the Spirit, Shoes on our Feet*

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Take Home Truth: We need the SWORD in our hands and the SHOES on our feet: The WORD and TO BE READY with the Gospel of Peace!

Focus Passages (ESV):

Ephesians 6:15-17 - 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, **Hebrews 4:12** - For the word of God is **living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword**, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been justified [been made right with God] by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (NLT) - And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" 21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

Message Highlights -

There are three pillars of temptation, three main ways that Satan tempts us:

3 Pillars of Temptation

1. **Desires of the Flesh** (Bread): Satan urged Jesus to turn stones into bread to satisfy his hunger. Jesus refused, stating, "It is written, **"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"** (Matthew 4:4) - Deuteronomy 8:3.
2. **Pride of Life** (Testing God): Satan took Jesus to the temple pinnacle, tempting him to jump and be saved by angels. Jesus countered, "Again it is written, **"You shall not put the Lord your God to the test"** (Matthew 4:7) - Deuteronomy 6:16.
3. **Desires of the Eyes** (Worldly Power): Satan offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. Jesus rejected this, commanding, **"Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only'"** (Matthew 4:10) - Deuteronomy 6:13.

Worship the Lord

1. This is our fourth message out of the War Ready series. What has God been teaching you so far? How has this series shaped how you see your daily battle against evil spiritual forces?
2. In light of the truth that we are all being tempted in various ways, especially to believe lies, what lie/temptation have you been struggling with in particular this week? (See 3 Pillars of Temptation)
3. The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God, which means that when we rightly understand the Bible in the context of the truth of Jesus, we have a weapon that can defeat all the lies that the Devil throws at us. Reflecting on this and thinking about your own walk with Jesus, when has God used the Bible (by yourself or with others) to show you that you were believing a lie and brought you into the truth? (Hebrews 4:12)
4. The Shoes of the Readiness helps us remember that because we have peace with God through Jesus, we must be ready to live out of the reality of that peace we have and also share the message of peace, the Gospel. How does the truth that you are at complete peace with God impact your desire to share it with others? How can you intentionally be ready to share the Gospel of Peace with others this week? (2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

Time Of Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word, help me as I walk with You to have the Word written in my heart so that I can be able to fight against all attacks of the evil one. When I have lies attacking me, remind me of the truth of your word so that I can counter attack all lies. Give me the boldness I need to share with others in need of the Gospel of peace.