

“THE BIG PICTURE”

Tie-In: The overall focus of Part I is why and how to meditate on the Word.

Takeaway: In this session, we learn that the Word is a sword of truth that we can use to win in all our battles against the enemy. If we want to prosper in life, we must love God’s word. We must love His word and strive to listen only to His voice instead of all the other voices in our heads so we can know the truth that will lead us to flourish. But if we want to use the Word like a sword, we must make sure to sharpen, understand, and carry the Word, because there is no point facing the enemy if your sword is dull, you don’t know how to use it, and if you leave it at home.

1 PS. NANDA: WHY THE WORD?

1 THE LANDSCAPE

- According to a BBC survey in 2017, 28% of those calling themselves Christians don’t believe in the resurrection.
- Do you know your faith is based on a historical fact?
 - How do you read the gospels? As historical fact or as parables?
- According to a The State of Theology survey in 2014, less than half of Americans believe that Hell is a real place.
 - But whether Hell exists is independent of whether you believe in it or not.
- We should live our lives based on the truth.

2 WHAT IS TRUTH?

- “What is truth?” – the question Pilate asked of Jesus. Do we know what our truth is?

JOHN 17:17 (NIV)

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

- Is the basis of our truth found in God’s Word?

2 TIMOTHY 2:15 (NIV)

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

PART I: SHARPENING YOUR SWORD // SESS. 1/4

MAY 5TH // SPEAKER: PS. FERDY, PS. NANDA & JEHUDA

- It is not just enough to have the Word, but we must correctly handle the Word.

EPHESIANS 6:17 (NIV)

“Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

- We use the image of a sword this summer because we are told the Word is like a sword.
- If as Paul says to Timothy, we can correctly handle the Word, it means we can also *incorrectly* handle the Word.
- How do we incorrectly handle the sword of the Spirit?
 - A sword is used to attack and defend against, but who do we use the Word to attack?
 - Who are we fighting? It is not supposed to be against flesh and blood human beings, but we often use the Word to attack and condemn each other. We attack our brothers and our sisters.
 - Meanwhile our real enemy will let us fight among each other and wait until we destroy ourselves.

3 PROSPERING

2 TIMOTHY 2:15 (NIV)

“I Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,

2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.”

- We want to prosper, but we want to prosper the Word’s way, not the world’s way.
- For those who prosper the world’s way, they think they win, but they lose big time.
- If we want to prosper the Word’s way, then we must love His Word.

2 PS. FERDY: ONLY HIS VOICE

4 ILLUSTRATION: THE HEADPHONES GAME

- Purpose of the program – to know that the Word is a sword to be used in all situations.

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- We should come out of the summer learning how to win in our battles against our enemy with the sword.
- There is an enemy who tries to distract us from the Word.
- God speaks, but what are we listening to?
- Imagine wearing headphones and listening to music while someone is speaking right in front of you. You can see their lips move, but because you are listening to something else, it is very difficult to hear that they are speaking to you.
 - Even if they shout at you, if the voices in your headphones are loud enough, you won't hear them at all.
 - If we let the world speak in our ears, we can't hear God even if He were right in front of us, speaking face to face.
- You shouldn't multitask while reading the Word, even if you think you can.
- What is the music in our ears when we try to listen for God's voice?
 - Our fears, our anxieties
 - Our own opinions, other peoples' opinions, our parents, our partners
 - Worldly pleasures, wealth
 - The voice of the enemy, etc.
 - These are all voices in our head that make it difficult to listen to the only voice that matters.

5 MARY AND MARTHA

LUKE 10:38-42 (NIV)

38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,

42 but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

- Mary was listening to Jesus while Martha served.
- Where is our focus? Martha was serving, but God does not care about our serving. God cares that Mary was listening to Jesus.

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- Martha was focused on many things.
 - Are we like Martha? Do we make Jesus' voice a first priority?
- Our argument, like Martha's, is that we are too busy to listen to His voice or read His word. We are focused on many things, but what is necessary?
 - Jesus knows that there is really only one thing necessary in life.
 - Learn to be like Mary and have a singular focus on His Word.
 - Make an appointment with God the way you would make an appointment with the ones you love and set your time apart for His voice.
- Challenge for this summer – have only one focus. Let's make time for the One we love.
- By the end of summer, you want to find your life verse – a verse you will hold onto everywhere within your life, and let it change your life.

2 JEHUDA: THE BIG PICTURE

6 MAY: SHARPENING

- Before you can use a sword in a fight, you need to make sure it's sharpened first.
 - You need to meditate on the Word so that it has a sharp edge within your mind.
- *Sundays – Mayditation workshops*
 - Meditation is a skill you need to practice to get better at.
- *Fridays – Maysuring New Birth*
 - If we want to let the Word transform us, we need to recognize if that is happening. If the Word transforms us, we will bear the fruit of that.
- Bible reading – A new passage every two weeks for independent reading and meditation. Learning how to meditate and sharpen your sword by doing it.

7 JUNE: UNDERSTANDING

- There's no point bringing a sharpened sword to a fight if you don't know how to use it.
- *Sundays – Basic Bible interpretation*
 - Learn how to read the Word

8 JULY: CARRYING

- Even if you sharpen your sword and know how to use it, there's no point if you leave it at home.
 - Learn how to carry the Word like a loaded gun always on you so you are not caught off-guard by any situation.
 - You will always have the Word with you in every situation.

PART I: SHARPENING YOUR SWORD // SESS. 1/4

MAY 5TH // SPEAKER: PS. FERDY, PS. NANDA & JEHUDA

- How do you get transformed by the Word so that you carry that Word with you at all times?
- *Sundays – Let the Word transform you*

9 AUGUST: YOUR SWORD AND YOU

- Learning how to use the Word as a sword should change the culture of our community.
- This should change our collective futures, not just something we learn and forget after four months.
- *Sundays – Next steps for how to live life with a sword*

10 LIFE VERSE

- Maybe you can't carry the whole of God's Word with you like a sword everyday. You should at least have one verse always in your pocket like a pocket knife. A life verse is portable, but always with you at all times.
- A life verse is your true north, your guiding star. It is the one voice that can get through the music of the headphones and remind you that you are not living the way you want to.
- A life verse is not just about memorizing a verse. It is more than memorization.
- By the end of summer, you should have all the skills you need to find and use your life verse.
 - May and meditating on Bible reading – Why do we need a life verse?
 - June – What is a life verse?
 - July and “Fruits” COOL – How does a life verse work?
- We want you to treat the Bible like a sword you can personally pick up and use.

11 THE BIG PICTURE

1. Why and how to use a *Life Verse*
2. in line with a *Love of the Word*
3. leading to *New Birth*
4. which is known by the *Fruit* it bears.

