WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

When Is It Right To Fight

Study Guide

Family Government

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

When Is It Right To Fight - 1

December 08, 2006

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-23 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Faith Over Fear in Warfare

Believers must not be afraid of enemy numbers or weapons, but trust in God's presence and power.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 20:1 says 'be not afraid of them' when seeing horses, chariots, and a larger army. Weaver emphasizes 'God has not given us a spirit of fear' (2 Timothy 1:7).

The Inevitability of War

Scripture assumes war as a fact of life in a fallen world; peace without Christ is impossible.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 20:1 says 'When thou goest out to battle' not 'if'. Weaver cites Ecclesiastes 3:8 'a time of war' and Matthew 10:34 where Jesus says He came not to send peace but a sword.

God's Sovereignty Over Human Strength

Numerical superiority and advanced weaponry are meaningless against God, who can use small means to defeat mighty foes.

Lecture support: Examples include Gideon's 300 men, David vs. Goliath, Samson's jawbone, and God using hornets or hemorrhoids against enemies.

The Antithesis Between Christ and the World

There is no fellowship between righteousness and unrighteousness; Christianity is incompatible with humanistic ideologies, leading to inevitable conflict.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 is cited to show no concord between Christ and Belial, light and darkness. Weaver applies this to communism, socialism, and the United Nations.

The Presence of God as the Decisive Advantage

The Lord's presence, power, and protection are sufficient for victory, as promised in Deuteronomy 20:4.

Lecture support: Exodus 33:13-15 and Joshua 1:5 show God's promise to be with His people. Deuteronomy 20:4 says 'the Lord your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you... to save you.'

Key Arguments

War is an assumed reality in Scripture, not an anomaly.

The Bible consistently uses 'when' regarding battle, indicating war is a normal part of a fallen world. Humanistic attempts at peace fail because they reject God.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 20:1, 21:10, 23:9 all use 'when' for going to war. Isaiah 57:20-21 says there is no peace for the wicked. Matthew 10:34 shows Christ's coming brings a sword.

Numerical odds are irrelevant when God is on your side.

Faith looks to God's power, not enemy numbers. Examples like Joshua and Caleb, Abijah, and Asa demonstrate victory against overwhelming odds through trust in God.

Lecture support: Numbers 13-14 contrasts the faithless spies with Caleb. 2 Chronicles 13 shows Abijah defeating Jeroboam's 800,000 with 400,000. 2 Chronicles 14 shows Asa defeating a million Ethiopians.

Superior weaponry cannot overcome God's intervention.

Horses and chariots (ancient heavy artillery) are meaningless when God fights for His people, as seen in the Red Sea, hailstones, and other miraculous victories.

Lecture support: Exodus 14 drowns Pharaoh's chariots. Joshua 10:11 mentions hailstones. Judges 15:15 records Samson's jawbone. 1 Samuel 17 shows David's sling defeating Goliath.

The presence of God is the ultimate advantage in battle.

Deuteronomy 20:4 promises God's presence, power, and protection. This is the basis for the command not to fear, as seen in the priest's exhortation before battle.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 20:2-4 shows the priest reminding the army that God goes with them to fight and save. Exodus 33:15 shows Moses refusing to go without God's presence.

Christians must not be intimidated by worldly power or ideologies.

The antithesis between light and darkness means conflict is inevitable, but believers should not fear because God is sovereign over all human systems.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 commands separation from unbelievers. Weaver applies this to modern ideologies like communism and the United Nations, stating they have no agreement with Christ.

Scripture References

Deuteronomy 20:1

The primary text: God commands Israel not to fear when facing superior numbers and weaponry because He is with them.

Deuteronomy 20:2-4

The priest's exhortation before battle, applying the principle of God's presence, power, and protection.

Exodus 15:3

Cited to show God is a warrior: 'The Lord is a man of war.'

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Used to demonstrate there is a time for everything, including war, and faith must be exercised in all times.

Deuteronomy 21:10

Another instance of 'when' regarding war, reinforcing the inevitability of conflict.

Deuteronomy 23:9

Further example of 'when the host goeth forth' as an assumed reality.

Isaiah 57:20-21

Declares there is no peace for the wicked, supporting the argument that humanistic peace is impossible.

Matthew 10:34-36

Jesus says He came not to send peace but a sword, indicating conflict results from His coming.

Matthew 24:6-7

Jesus predicts wars and rumors of wars as inevitable until the end.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Commands separation from unbelievers, illustrating the antithesis between righteousness and unrighteousness.

Numbers 13:26-33

The spies' report: ten spies focused on giants and walled cities, while Caleb urged faith.

Numbers 14:1-10

The people's fear and rebellion contrasted with Joshua and Caleb's faith.

Hebrews 4:1-2

Explains that the Israelites' lack of faith prevented them from entering God's rest.

1 Samuel 13:4-7

Israelites hid in fear from the Philistine multitude, contrasting with Jonathan's faith.

2 Chronicles 13:1-18

Abijah's speech and victory over Jeroboam despite being outnumbered 2 to 1.

2 Chronicles 14:9-15

Asa's prayer and victory over a million Ethiopians, demonstrating faith in God's power.

2 Timothy 1:7

God has not given a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.

Exodus 33:13-15

Moses insists on God's presence as essential for going forward.

Joshua 1:5

God promises Joshua His presence as He was with Moses, ensuring victory.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the biblical assumption of war as a reality challenge modern Christian views on pacifism or peacemaking?

Consider: Weaver argues that Scripture assumes war will happen ('when' not 'if') and that humanistic peace is impossible.

2. In what ways do we, like the Israelites, tend to focus on numerical odds or superior resources rather than on God's power?

Consider: The sermon contrasts living by sight (fearing numbers and weapons) with living by faith (trusting God's sovereignty).

3. How can we practically apply the command 'be not afraid' when facing overwhelming opposition in spiritual or cultural battles?

Consider: Deuteronomy 20:1 commands no fear despite seeing horses, chariots, and larger armies.

4. What does the antithesis between light and darkness (2 Corinthians 6) mean for Christian engagement with secular ideologies and institutions?

Consider: Weaver applies the passage to communism, socialism, and the United Nations, arguing there can be no agreement.

5. How does the historical example of God's intervention in the American Revolution encourage us to trust God in contemporary conflicts?

Consider: The sermon begins recounting the evacuation of Long Island as evidence of God's supernatural care.

Applications

Reject fear and trust God's presence in all conflicts.

Believers must not be intimidated by enemy strength but rely on God's promise to be with them and fight for them.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 20:1, 4 command no fear because God is with His people. 2 Timothy 1:7 says God gives a spirit of power, not fear.

Evaluate battles by faith, not by sight.

Numerical odds and superior weaponry should not determine our courage; we must see God as greater than any earthly power.

Lecture support: Examples of Joshua, Caleb, Abijah, and Asa show victory through faith despite overwhelming odds.

Maintain separation from ungodly alliances.

Christians should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers or humanistic systems, as there is no fellowship between light and darkness.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 commands separation; Weaver applies this to political and ideological unions.

Recognize the inevitability of conflict in a fallen world.

Instead of being surprised by war or opposition, believers should expect it and prepare spiritually, knowing peace without Christ is impossible.

Lecture support: Ecclesiastes 3:8 says there is a time for war; Matthew 24:6 predicts wars until the end.

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

When Is It Right To Fight - 2

December 15, 2006

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 25-40 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Sovereignty of God over Life and Death

God has appointed the time and means of each person's death, including whether they die in battle. This truth enables believers to fight without fear.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Job 7:1, Job 14:5, and Psalm 31:15 to show that our days are determined by God. He states, 'God has not only ordained the day that you're going to die, he has also ordained the means or the way that you're going to die.'

Priority of Family over Warfare

The exemptions in Deuteronomy 20 demonstrate that the family unit takes precedence over military service. Stable families are essential for producing soldiers and for having something worth defending.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The family has a priority over warfare. Soldiers cannot be produced without solid, stable homes.' He points to the exemptions for new homeowners, vineyard planters, and the betrothed.

Covenant Blessings as Symbols of God's Favor

Home, wife, and vineyard are symbols of covenant blessing. Those who have not yet enjoyed these blessings are exempted from war so they may experience God's goodness.

Lecture support: Weaver references Micah 4:4 and Deuteronomy 28:30, contrasting the blessing of sitting under one's vine with the curse of losing these blessings. He says, 'the home, the wife, and wine are all symbols of the covenantal blessing of God.'

Fighting in Faith, Not Fear

God's battles must be fought in faith. Fear is the opposite of faith, and fearful soldiers can discourage others. Therefore, the fearful are exempted.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'God's battles are always to be fought in faith. Fear is the opposite of faith.' He cites Judges 7:2-3 where God sends the fearful home.

Key Arguments

Righteous Men May Die in Battle

Although God generally protects His people in war, He does not always do so. Death in battle is sometimes the means God uses to bring about His appointed end.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Even righteous men, fighting for a righteous cause, sometimes die in battle.' He gives examples like Uriah the Hittite and Stonewall Jackson.

The Exemptions Are Based on Incomplete Covenant Enjoyment

The first three exemptions are for men who have not yet experienced the full joys of covenant life - training a household, eating from a vineyard, or taking a wife.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that 'dedicate' means to train or initiate, and that the vineyard exemption could last up to five years based on Leviticus 19:23-25.

Fear Undermines Military Effectiveness

Fearful soldiers are exempted because their fear can spread and discourage others, and because God's battles require faith.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If I'm fighting for my life, I don't want someone quivering in the foxhole beside me... God said, you let the fearful and the faint hearted go. Lest they discourage the hearts of their brethren.'

God's Providence Enables Courage

Understanding that God has appointed the time of our death allows believers to fight with boldness, knowing they cannot die before God's time.

Lecture support: Weaver tells stories of Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee remaining calm under fire, and says, 'A man is immortal until God is through with him.'

Scripture References

Deuteronomy 20:1-4

Reviewed from previous sermon: wars are assumed, numerical odds and superior armaments are inconsequential for people of faith because God is with them.

Deuteronomy 20:5-8

The main text for the sermon, listing military exemptions for those with a new house, new vineyard, betrothed, or fearful.

Exodus 30:11-16

The atonement money given at the census was a ransom for the soul, implying that soldiers might die in battle.

Numbers 31

Example of God protecting Israelite soldiers: 12,000 men defeated Midian without losing one soldier.

Job 7:1

Used to show that man has an appointed time on earth, supporting the idea that God ordains the day of death.

Job 14:1-5

Further support that man's days are determined and his bounds appointed by God.

Psalm 31:15

David acknowledges that his times are in God's hand, reinforcing divine sovereignty over life and death.

Psalm 66:9

God holds our soul in life and does not allow our feet to be moved, illustrating divine protection.

Isaiah 57:1

The righteous are sometimes taken away to be spared from evil to come, explaining why godly men may die in battle.

1 Kings 8:63

The same Hebrew word for 'dedicate' (hanak) is used for dedicating the temple, meaning to initiate or begin.

2 Chronicles 7:5

Parallel to 1 Kings 8:63, showing the dedication of the temple involved training the priests.

Proverbs 22:6

'Train up a child' uses the same Hebrew word hanak, meaning to dedicate or initiate.

Leviticus 19:23-25

Explains that fruit from a new vineyard is not to be eaten until the fifth year, showing the long-term nature of the vineyard exemption.

Deuteronomy 24:5

A newly married man is exempt from war and business for one year to cheer his wife.

Judges 7:2-3

Gideon's army: God sent the fearful home, leaving only 10,000, illustrating the principle of exempting the fearful.

Numbers 1:48-49

The tribe of Levi was not numbered for military service, showing an automatic exemption for the priestly tribe.

Micah 4:4

Sitting under one's vine and fig tree is a symbol of covenant blessing and peace.

Deuteronomy 28:30

The curse for disobedience includes losing the covenant blessings of wife, house, and vineyard.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the truth that God has appointed the time and means of our death affect the way we think about risk and danger in daily life?

Consider: Weaver taught that our days are determined by God, using Job 14:5 and Psalm 31:15.

2. In what ways does modern military practice undermine the biblical priority of family, and what could be done to align more closely with Deuteronomy 20?

Consider: Weaver criticized the practice of separating married couples for long deployments.

3. What does it mean to 'dedicate' a house in the biblical sense, and how does that differ from common modern practices?

Consider: Weaver explained that the Hebrew word hanak means to train or initiate, not just a brief ceremony.

4. Why does God exempt the fearful from battle, and how can we apply the principle of not allowing fear to discourage others in our own contexts?

Consider: Weaver cited Judges 7 and the danger of fear spreading among soldiers.

5. How can we cultivate a genuine enjoyment of God's covenant blessings (home, family, provision) without making them idols?

Consider: Weaver urged the congregation to enjoy these blessings while they can, especially before judgment comes.

Applications

Trust God's Sovereignty in Life and Death

Believers should live with confidence that God has appointed their days, freeing them from fear of untimely death and enabling boldness in dangerous callings.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'I can't die and I can't be killed until it's God's time for me.' He illustrates with stories of Washington, Jackson, and Lee.

Prioritize Family Stability

Families should be strengthened and protected, as they are the foundation of society and more important than military or economic demands.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'The family has a priority over warfare,' and criticizes military policies that separate husbands and wives.

Enjoy Covenant Blessings While Possible

Believers should consciously thank God for and enjoy the blessings of home, spouse, and provision, recognizing they may not always be available.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You and I had better learn to enjoy the covenantal blessings of God while we can... because when the curse of God is full and final on this nation, we'll not have some of these things.'

Fight Spiritual Battles in Faith, Not Fear

Just as Israel was to fight physical battles in faith, Christians must engage spiritual warfare without fear, trusting God's promises and presence.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God's battles are always to be fought in faith. Fear is the opposite of faith.'

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 3

When Is It Right To Fight - 3

December 22, 2006

Read Chapter 3 in the companion book, pages 41-59 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Biblical Warfare Regulations

God provides specific rules for conducting war, including offers of peace, treatment of enemies, and environmental stewardship.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Deuteronomy 20:10-20, detailing the offer of peace, the tributary system, and the prohibition against destroying fruit trees.

Justice and Righteousness in Conflict

Peace offers must be on God's terms of justice, not compromise. Refusal leads to just annihilation of combatants.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'It is peace but it is peace on terms of justice and righteousness... If the people refuse the offer of peace on God's terms, then a full-scale war is to be waged and all the males are to be annihilated.'

Priority of Production and Life

War should not destroy productive resources or civilians, as they are essential for post-war reconstruction and godly order.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Production has priority over politics' and 'War is not to be waged against productive citizens.'

Restraint on Government Power

The law of booty excludes the state from war spoils, removing economic incentives for politicians to wage war.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'No booty went to the state... it places a great restraint upon them to keep them from fighting.'

Fight to Win

If conflict is necessary, it should be decisive to prevent future battles, illustrated by personal stories.

Lecture support: Weaver recounts his father's advice and the school bus fight: 'If you've got to fight, fight to win so you won't have to fight again.'

Key Arguments

Offer of peace is not negotiation

The peace offer in Deuteronomy 20 is a demand for surrender to God's righteous terms, not a compromise.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'This offer of peace is not a negotiation. It is not a negotiation. Secondly, this offer of peace is not a compromise of righteousness.'

Tributaries support God's order

Conquered peoples who accept peace become tributaries, paying taxes and supporting the superior society based on God's law.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'They're supporting God's law, God's work... you're going to have free access to preach and to teach the word of God.'

Canaanites were under divine judgment

The Canaanites were excluded from peace offers because they were under God's curse and would lead Israel into sin.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'They were under the ban, they were under the curse, they were under the judicial sentence of death from God.'

Scorched earth policy is forbidden

Deuteronomy 20:19-20 prohibits destroying fruit trees, teaching that war should target people, not the environment.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'These scriptures forbid what you and I would call a wanton destruction of the earth... the scorched earth policy.'

Booty distribution restrains government

Since spoils go to soldiers, congregation, and the Lord, not the state, politicians lack economic incentive for war.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'If there are no spoils of war that go to the government or to the politicians, it places a great restraint upon them to keep them from fighting.'

Scripture References

Deuteronomy 20:1-20

The entire chapter is read and expounded as the basis for the sermon's principles on warfare.

Malachi 3:6

Cited to support the immutability of God: 'I, the Lord, change not.'

Psalm 119:89

Used to affirm the eternal nature of God's word: 'Forever, O Lord, is thy word settled in the heavens.'

Judges 1:30

Example of Canaanites becoming tributaries instead of being destroyed.

2 Chronicles 8:7-8

Solomon made the remaining Canaanites pay tribute.

2 Chronicles 10:18

Hadoram was over the tribute (taxes), illustrating the tributary system.

Esther 10:1

King Ahasuerus laid a tribute (tax) on the land.

Deuteronomy 4:6-8

Israel's laws make them a wise and understanding nation, superior to others.

Ecclesiastes 5:9

The profit of the earth is for all, supporting the principle of not destroying fruit trees.

Psalm 1:1-4

Men are compared to trees, with the righteous being like a fruitful tree.

Numbers 31:21-30, 42, 47

The law of booty: spoils divided between warriors and congregation, with a tithe to the Lord.

1 Samuel 30:5-6, 10, 19-24

David's equal distribution of spoils between those who fought and those who stayed behind.

1 Chronicles 26:27

Spoils won in battles were dedicated to maintain the house of the Lord.

Hebrews 7:4

Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils to Melchizedek, confirming the tithe from war booty.

1 Samuel 30:26-31

David voluntarily shared spoils with elders who helped him.

Judges 8:24-25

Gideon requested earrings from the prey, and the men willingly gave them.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the biblical offer of peace differ from modern diplomatic negotiations?

Consider: Weaver stresses that the peace offer is not a negotiation but a demand for surrender to God's righteous terms.

2. In what ways does the principle 'fight to win so you won't have to fight again' apply to personal conflicts today?

Consider: Weaver uses personal anecdotes to illustrate the need for decisive action to prevent repeated conflicts.

3. What are the implications of forbidding scorched-earth policies for modern warfare and environmental stewardship?

Consider: The sermon argues that war should target people, not creation, based on Deuteronomy 20:19-20.

4. How does the biblical law of booty challenge contemporary government profiteering from war?

Consider: Weaver points out that no spoils went to the state, which restrained politicians from unnecessary wars.

5. Why does God command the total destruction of the Canaanites, and how does this relate to the offer of peace for other nations?

Consider: The Canaanites were under divine judgment and posed a spiritual threat, unlike distant cities.

Applications

Avoid bloodshed when possible

Christians should seek to avoid violent conflict if at all possible, as illustrated by Weaver's decision not to engage with threatening men.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If I can avoid bloodshed, I'm going to avoid bloodshed.'

Fight decisively when necessary

When conflict is unavoidable, act decisively to win and prevent future battles, as taught by Weaver's father and demonstrated in the school bus story.

Lecture support: Weaver recounts, 'Dad said, Son, if you hurt him, he'll leave you alone.'

Prioritize production over politics

In societal conflicts, productive resources and citizens should be preserved, not destroyed for political ends.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Production has priority over politics.'

Support those who stay behind

Recognize that those who support from home share equally in the victories and blessings of those who go to battle, applicable in family and church contexts.

Lecture support: Weaver applies the booty division to his wife and congregation: 'half of it goes to her... half of them go to you.'

Restrain government war incentives

Advocate for systems where politicians do not profit from war, reducing the likelihood of unnecessary conflicts.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'If they get nothing from war, there's restraint placed upon them.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: When Is It Right To Fight - 1

Lecture JW00904

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00904&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: When Is It Right To Fight - 2

Lecture JW00902

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00902&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 3: When Is It Right To Fight - 3

Lecture JW00900

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00900&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.