



LINK247

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**Big Idea** — *The greatest war we will ever fight is not external. The war that will define us is the one within. This series focuses on how students can win that war, the war inside.*

- **Lesson 1 — The Enemy in Me**  
*There is a war inside of us between our spirit and our flesh that can only be overcome by our surrendering to the power and authority of Jesus Christ.*
- **Lesson 2 — A Terrible Trade**  
*Our choices will define our destiny.*
- **Lesson 3 — Filter and Flee**  
*To win the war inside there are times we must filter and flee.*
- **Lesson 4 — Recognition**  
*Recognition precedes submission.*

# LESSON MAP



Each LINK247 lesson follows the same lesson map. This map is designed to help you connect students with biblical truth. Each lesson has options to help you tailor each lesson to best fit the group that you are teaching. Listed below are the elements in each LINK247 lesson.

1

## LAUNCH

*Begin by choosing a Launch option that will connect with the group of students you are teaching.*



2

## UNLOCK

*Next, using the outline provided, walk through the Bible with the students.*



3

## INTERSECT

*Then provide practical applications for students to apply the truth in their everyday lives.*



4

## ARRIVE

*To end, conclude the message by choosing one or more of the Arrive options.*





## WEEK 1 – THE ENEMY IN ME



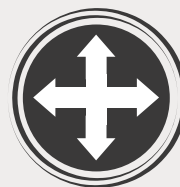
### SERIES BIG IDEA

*The greatest war we will ever fight is not external. The war that will define us is the one within. This series focuses on how students can win that war, the war inside.*



### BIBLICAL PASSAGE

*Romans 7:21-25*



### BOTTOM LINE

*There is a war inside of us between our spirit and our flesh that can only be overcome by our surrendering to the power and authority of Jesus Christ.*

# LESSON OUTLINE



## 1. LAUNCH

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- A. Option 1 — Personal Story
- B. Option 2 — War Questions
- C. Option 3 — The Fight That Matters

## 2. UNLOCK

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- A. Introduction
- B. Backstory to the Book of Romans
- C. The war inside is real.
- D. The war inside is inevitable.
- E. The war inside — three battle plans

## 3. INTERSECT

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- A. “Looking at” versus “looking unto”
- B. We do all of this by looking unto Jesus.

## 4. ARRIVE

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- A. Option 1 — Prayer
- B. Option 2 — Discussion Questions
- C. Option 3 — Write It Down

## 1

## LAUNCH



Begin by choosing a Launch option that will connect with the group of students you are teaching.

### A. Option 1 — Personal Story

Begin by asking students if they have ever been in an argument or a fight. It may have not been a physical fight. After some students responded begin to tell an appropriate story about a time as a child when you were in a fight. Connect the story to the reality that we all are currently in a fight that will make all the difference in our lives. Our fight is not a natural fight; our fight is a spiritual fight. This series instructs us how to win that fight.

### B. Option 2 — War Questions

Begin the lesson by asking students to guess whether the following statements are true or false about different wars throughout history: (You could even split up the class by gender or location into teams and see who gets the most answers right.) Get students involved in answering the questions. After you have gone through the questions, remind them that we are in a war right now. Our war is not natural; our war is a spiritual war. In this series we are going to look at how we can win that war—the war inside.

#### 1. True or False?

- a) The shortest war lasted only thirty-eight minutes. (**True**, The shortest war on record took place in 1896 when Zanzibar surrendered to Britain after thirty-eight minutes.)
- b) Canada has no military and in result, no military expenditure. (**False**, Canada has a military, but Iceland does not.)
- a) Chevy Chase was a battle that took place on the English-Scottish border in 1388. (**True**)

#### 2. Multiple Choice

- a) How many deaths are caused by land mines each year?
  - (1) 10,000
  - (2) 500
  - (3) **24,000** (Correct)
  - (4) 5,000
- b) Since 1495 no \_\_\_\_\_ period has been without war.
  - (1) **Twenty-five-year** (Correct)
  - (2) Fifty-year
  - (3) Seventy-five-year
  - (4) One hundred-year



### C. Option 3 — The Fight That Matters

*Ask students the following questions: Who do you admire most in your life? Why? Some students will mention family members and spiritual leaders who have made an impact in their lives. Get students talking. Show them God desires them to make an impact on others. However, that does not happen by accident. The people they admire choose to fight for the right things. We are going to look at what the Bible says about how to fight the right fight and win the war inside.*

SAMPLE

# 2

## UNLOCK



*Next, using the outline provided, walk through the Bible with the students.*

### **A. Introduction** — *Begin with one or more of the launch options.*

1. Connect it to the reality that each of us has a war inside of our life. That fight will make all the difference in our lives.
2. This lesson addresses how to win the war inside.

### **B. Backstory to the Book of Romans**

1. The Book of Romans is a letter written by Paul to the Christians in the city of Rome in A.D. 57.
2. In this letter to the Romans we find many encouraging passages where Paul makes it clear that salvation is available to all and is through Jesus Christ alone.

### **C. The war inside is real.**

1. Chapter 7 of Romans gives us insight into the life of the apostle Paul.
2. *Read Romans 7:21-25.*
3. Paul was transparent enough to admit that he had a war inside.
4. What does he say that battle is between? (The battle is between two laws or ways of living—the way of God and the way of sin.)
5. The Law of God = Life led by God's guidelines for our lives, as found in the Bible.
6. Name some of God's guidelines for our lives. (Examples — Being led by the Spirit, holiness, honesty, and love)
7. The Law of Sin = Life led by the desires of our flesh. (Whatever feels good, do it.)
8. *Give some examples of actions that gratify our flesh.* (Examples—lying, stealing, cheating, and lust)
9. Paul teaches us that the war inside is real. There really is a battle on the inside of our lives that seeks to turn us from a life lived by the guidelines of God to a life led by our own desires.

### **D. The war inside is inevitable.**

1. Everyone faces this war. No one is exempt.
2. Paul was used by God to do incredible things. He started churches all over the known world. He even has thirteen of his letters in the Bible today! But even with all of his spiritual accomplishments, he still had to fight the war inside.
3. We will never graduate beyond our flesh. There will always be a battle to fight.
4. The battle is for our actions. Notice, Paul is not having trouble distinguishing what is right and what is wrong. He is having trouble doing what he already knows is right.



5. We should not feel badly that we too face this this battle. The battle is normal.

## E. The war inside — three battle plans

*How do we win the war inside? Here are three common ways that people respond to this battle.*

1. Ignore it.

- a) Many students just simply ignore this reality and think that everything is going to be OK.
- b) It is easy to go through our teenage and early adult years with blinders on, refusing to think about the war inside.
  - (1) In reality, we will face the consequences of our choices whether or not we choose to be aware of the process.
  - (2) Example — Students do not think about the ramifications of a sinful dating relationship, however, they will experience its negative consequences.
- c) Ignoring the reality of the war inside is no way to win.

2. Fight it.

- a) Other students simply make the choice to fight with everything they have.
- b) To many this is the obvious answer. We live in a land where we can do anything if we just try hard enough. Many feel that if they just try harder to be a Christian they can win the war inside.
- c) The reality is that no matter how much willpower we possess, we do not have enough power in ourselves to win the war inside. Yes, we must make an effort to stand against the desires of our flesh, however, we are not equipped in ourselves to win this war.

3. Surrender

- a) The way we win the war inside is to surrender.
- b) This does not mean surrender to the law of sin, but surrender to Jesus Christ.
- c) *Read Romans 7:25.* Notice, Paul did not say the answer is in him *trying* harder. He did not say that the answer was in ignoring the war inside. He wrote that the answer is Jesus Christ.
- d) We win by surrendering to Jesus Christ.
  - (1) We begin to win when we confess our need to Jesus.
  - (2) We begin to win when we invite Jesus into our daily lives to fight for us.
  - (3) As we begin this new series, let us begin by surrendering our lives to Jesus Christ. May we begin to ask Jesus to give us the strength to walk with Him and win the war inside.
- e) This is not an excuse not to fight. We are not saying the fight is all Jesus and nothing to do with us. The reality is that God works with us as we step out in faith and choose to make the right decision.



# 3

## INTERSECT



*Then provide practical applications for students to apply the truth in their everyday lives.*

### A. “Looking at” versus “looking unto”

1. Read Hebrews 12:1-2.

2. This passage gives us a powerful insight about how to begin to win the war inside.

3. The writer says that in this race of faith we must make the choice to lay down two things—sins and weights.

#### a) Sins

(1) Sins are the things found in the “Law of Sin” that Paul wrote about. Sins are those things God forbids in the Bible. They are things that are wrong and against the law of God. The writer says we must choose to let go of sin.

(2) What are the sins in our lives we need to lay down?

(3) We lay those sins down by repenting of our sins, that is turning from them and asking for forgiveness from Jesus.

#### b) Weights

(1) The writer of Hebrews instructs us to lay down a second group of items—weights.

(2) These things are not sins, however, they are things that personally weigh us down and cause our race of faith to be more difficult.

(3) What are the weights in your life?

(4) Are there any things in our lives weighing us down in our relationship with God?

### B. We win the war inside by looking unto Jesus.

1. The way we lay down sins and weights and win the war inside is by looking unto Jesus.

(See Hebrews 12:1-2.)

2. We put our focus completely on Jesus and allow Him to fill us with strength to win the war inside.

# 4

## ARRIVE

*To end, conclude the message by choosing one or more of the Arrive options.*



### A. Option 1 — Prayer

1. Challenge students to respond to God in a time of prayer.
2. Challenge students to surrender their lives to Jesus like they never have before.

### B. Option 2 — Discussion Questions

1. What are the dangers in thinking we have the ability to overcome sin in our lives by our own strength?
2. What does it mean to surrender to Jesus?
3. What is the difference between “looking to” Jesus and “looking at” Jesus when it comes to winning the war inside?
4. What does it look like to look daily to Jesus?
5. What in our lives do we need to surrender to Jesus?

### C. Option 3 — Write It Down

1. Give students a piece of paper and ask them to write down the word “Weights” on one side. Then ask them to write the word “Sins” on the other.
2. Challenge them to take some time and write down some weights and sins that are keeping them from winning the war inside.
3. Let them know that no one else will see this list. This is for them to be able to see where in their life they need strength from God to win the war inside. You could even have a trashcan and tell them to rip up their lists and throw them in the trash, representing their surrender to God.
4. This option would work well if you play a worship song and give them an opportunity to write and pray.
5. Then after having corporate prayer instruct them to throw away their weights and sins.
6. What is the danger of trading your principles for acceptance?