

The Struggles that Surround us - 5

This is totally your study. Nobody will be instructing you and nobody will be grading you. It will just be you, your Bible, these lessons, your own paper, and of course, the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you.

STRUGGLE	People Who Manipulate Me
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"Manipulate" means to "handle someone with skill". It is a pre-meditated act of cleverly controlling someone. People who teach false beliefs are manipulators; people can befriend others to sexually manipulate others; people will use their authority & overpowering personality to manipulate the unsuspecting .

1. Explain briefly how you have been manipulated or controlled or handled.

2. Here's a hard one. How have you manipulated someone else?

3. Who is behind the practice of "taking advantage" of people? (2 Cor 11:14)

4. How does God feel about manipulating people? (Lev 25:17)

5. What do manipulative people really want? (Romans 16:18)

I used to manipulate or control my wife with my temper & anger. I got what I wanted by intimidating her & making her fearful of my reactions. I am ashamed to admit that.

6. How do "controllers of others" get their power? (Luke 16:15)

a. "You are those who _____ themselves before _____."

b. They make their beliefs "highly _____ among _____."

Our governments & politicians do this; they may lie or promote a lie. That lie could turn into a strategy or even a law to manipulate or control us.

OK, so then controlling others could be "person to person" or it could be "leaders to people."

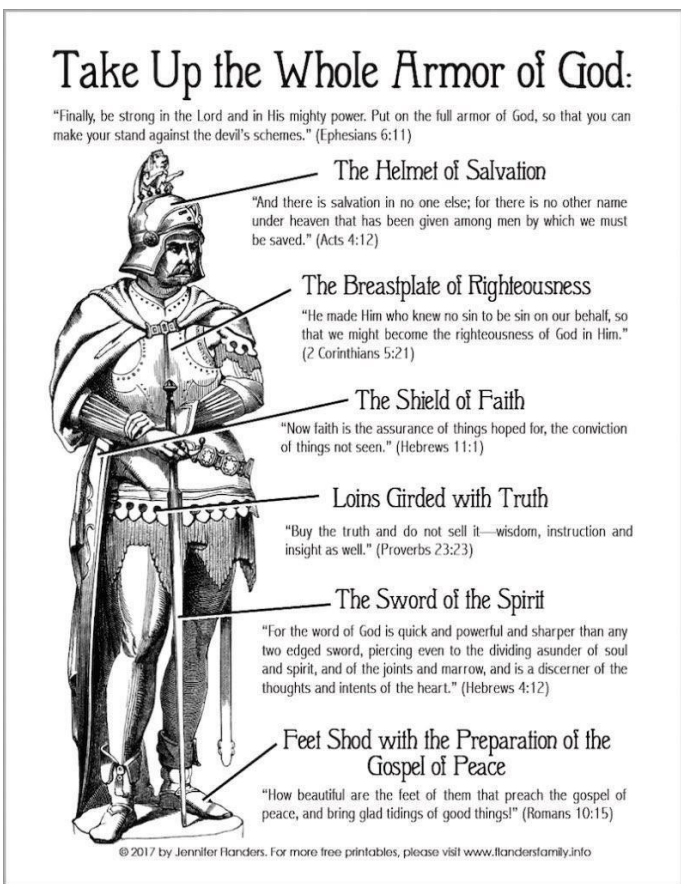
7. Write out Galatians 6:10. _____

Unfortunately, not everyone wants to do good to us. Some things we cannot control. Some things we can. Instead of being a victim, let's be proactive.

8. What can we do? (Ephesians 6:14-18) (There are only spiritual answers here).

- a. Gird yourself with what? _____
- b. Put on the breastplate of what? _____
- c. Use your feet to spread what? _____
- d. Hold in place the shield of what? _____
- e. Put on the helmet of what? _____
- f. Position in front of you the what? _____
- g. Furthermore, always do what? _____

Don't kid yourself. We need protection. Those people who want to control us are all over, all around us, more clever than us, motivated by the schemes of the devil.



9. We need wise & clear thinking. What does the **HELMET** cover? _____

10. We need a pure heart, good motives & a Godly purpose. What does the **BREASTPLATE** cover? _____

11. We need pure actions, self-control, and sexual integrity. What does the **GIRDLE** cover? _____

12. We need portable protection from God & His word for wherever we are being attacked. What does the **SHIELD** cover? _____

13. We need a firm foundation to stand on & then be ready to go wherever the good news needs to be told. What do the **shoes** cover? _____

14. God's plan needs to be spoken. We don't just sit back. **We need an offense too.** This whole armor suit is defensive except this

piece. What is it? _____ This weapon can do its job when the rest of the armor does its job. I can hold this sword high. It upsets evil; it intimidates the false; it makes clear the truth. This sword says "Trust God – He is in control over the manipulators & the liars. He can handle them. Leave the results to Him." **The sword** of the Holy Spirit brings victory & hope.