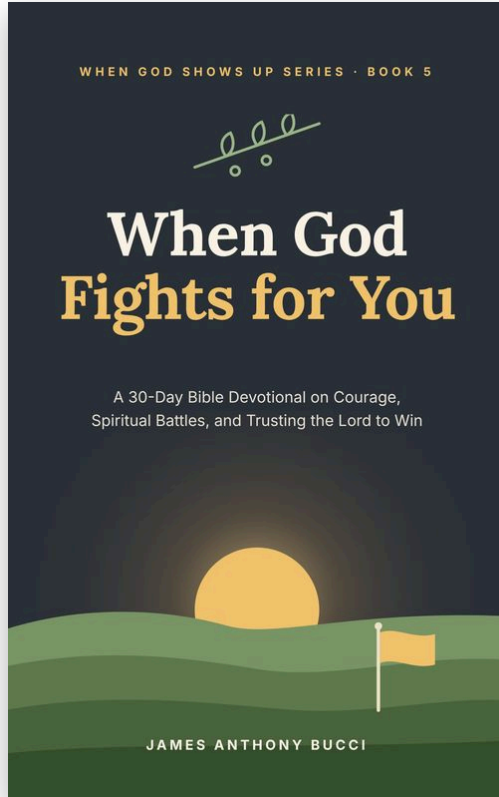


SMALL-GROUP LEADER GUIDE

When God Fights for You

Book 5 of the When God Shows Up series



Six weekly sessions for churches, home groups, and friends
reading the 30-day devotional together

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How to use this guide

The book has 30 days. This guide splits them into **six weekly sessions of five days** each. Group members read one day at a time on their own, then meet once a week to talk about what they read.

Each session takes about 45 to 60 minutes and follows the same simple pattern:

- **Open** (5 minutes): one easy question to get everyone talking.
- **Review the week** (5 minutes): name the five stories. Ask someone to retell one in their own words.
- **Read together** (5 minutes): read the key verse aloud, then the full passage if you have time.
- **Talk about it** (25 to 35 minutes): pick the questions that fit your group. You won't get to all of them, and that's fine.
- **Live it and pray** (10 minutes): a simple challenge for the week, then close in prayer.

TIPS FOR LEADERS

- You don't need to be a Bible teacher. Your job is to ask good questions and let people talk.
- Let silence happen. People often need a few seconds to think.
- Never pressure anyone to share. Some of these questions are personal.
- If someone hasn't done the reading, they're still welcome. The stories are short enough to read together.
- Every story points to a King James passage. Encourage people to read the passage itself, not just the retelling.

The questions in this guide come from the journal prompts in the book, so group members will have already thought about them during the week.

Week 1

OPEN

Which story this week surprised you the most, and why?

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 1: Too Many for Me (Judges 7:1–22)

Day 2: The Night Rescue (Genesis 14:1–24)

Day 3: Aaron's Rod (Exodus 7:8–13)

Day 4: Hold Up His Hands (Exodus 17:8–16)

Day 5: The Commander of the Lord's Army (Joshua 5:13–15)

READ TOGETHER

"And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me."

Judges 7:2 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 1: Too Many for Me

1. What battle in your life feels too big for what you have right now?
2. Where might God be using your "not enough" to show His strength?

Day 2: The Night Rescue

1. Think of a past victory. How did God help you that you may not have noticed at the time?
2. Is there someone in your life, like Lot, who has wandered into trouble?

Day 3: Aaron's Rod

1. What in your life looks powerful right now, maybe even as strong as God?
2. Have you ever been fooled by something that imitated a blessing?

Day 4: Hold Up His Hands

1. Who has been an Aaron or a Hur for you, holding you up when you were worn out?
2. Whose arms are heavy right now? How could you help hold them up?

Day 5: The Commander of the Lord's Army

1. Have you been asking God to be “on your side” in something?
2. What would change if you asked Him, “What do You want me to do?”

LIVE IT

Pick one story from this week and tell it to someone in your own words before you meet again.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 5:

Lord, forgive me for the times I've asked You to join my plans instead of asking what You want. You are the Commander. I take off my shoes and listen. What do You want to say to Your servant today? Amen.

Week 2

OPEN

Which person in this week's stories did you relate to most?

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 6: The Walls Came Down (Joshua 6:1–20)

Day 7: Defeat at Ai (Joshua 7:1–12; 8:1)

Day 8: The Left-Handed Deliverer (Judges 3:12–30)

Day 9: Hath Not the LORD Gone Out Before Thee? (Judges 4:1–16)

Day 10: Face Down Before the Ark (1 Samuel 5:1–12)

READ TOGETHER

“And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.”

Joshua 6:2 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 6: The Walls Came Down

1. What “wall” in your life seems like it will never come down?
2. Are you in the middle of “silent laps,” obeying without seeing results?

Day 7: Defeat at Ai

1. Is there a “small” battle you’ve been handling without praying about it?
2. Is there anything hidden in your life that might be draining your strength?

Day 8: The Left-Handed Deliverer

1. What part of yourself have you seen as a weakness?
2. How might God use that very thing for good?

Day 9: Hath Not the LORD Gone Out Before Thee?

1. What are the “iron chariots” you’re afraid of right now?
2. How does it change things to know that God has gone out before you?

Day 10: Face Down Before the Ark

1. When has it looked to you like God was losing?
2. What “Dagon” might be standing next to God in your own life?

LIVE IT

Choose one journal question you skipped this week and write out your answer.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 10:

Lord, when it looks like You’ve lost, help me remember that You are never defeated. Knock down the idols in my own heart, the things I’ve set up next to You. You alone are God. Amen.

Week 3

OPEN

Was there a verse this week that stuck with you? Read it aloud to the group.

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 11: Hitherto Hath the LORD Helped Us (1 Samuel 7:3–13)

Day 12: Abigail's Gift (1 Samuel 25:2–39)

Day 13: The Sound in the Mulberry Trees (2 Samuel 5:17–25)

Day 14: A Field of Lentils (2 Samuel 23:8–12)

Day 15: Hushai's Advice (2 Samuel 15:30–37; 17:1–14)

READ TOGETHER

“Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.”

1 Samuel 7:12 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 11: Hitherto Hath the LORD Helped Us

1. Looking back, where can you see that God has helped you “hitherto”?
2. Have you ever faced more pressure right after turning toward God?

Day 12: Abigail's Gift

1. Is there someone you've wanted to “get back at”?
2. Who has been an Abigail for you, stopping you before you made a mistake?

Day 13: The Sound in the Mulberry Trees

1. Is there a situation where you've been relying on what “worked last time” instead of asking God?
2. Has God ever asked you to wait before acting?

Day 14: A Field of Lentils

1. What is your “field of lentils,” something ordinary but worth defending?
2. Is there something you’ve been tempted to walk away from because others have?

Day 15: Hushai’s Advice

1. Have you ever prayed a short, desperate prayer and seen God answer?
2. Is there a situation where the odds seem stacked against you?

LIVE IT

Write this week’s key verse on a card and keep it where you’ll see it every day.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 15:

Lord, when I’m outmatched and out of options, I trust You to fight for me in ways I can’t see. Turn the plans against me into foolishness. And make me a faithful friend in the right place for someone else. Amen.

Week 4

OPEN

Where have you seen God at work in your own life since we last met?

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 16: Fire on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:17–39)

Day 17: The God of the Hills and the Valleys (1 Kings 20:13–30)

Day 18: Ditches in the Desert (2 Kings 3:4–24)

Day 19: Asa's Prayer (2 Chronicles 14:9–15)

Day 20: Twenty-One Days (Daniel 10:1–14)

READ TOGETHER

“And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.”

1 Kings 18:39 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 16: Fire on Mount Carmel

1. Where in your life have you been “halting between two opinions”?
2. How does Elijah's simple prayer encourage you to pray?

Day 17: The God of the Hills and the Valleys

1. Is there a part of your life where you've doubted God's power reaches?
2. What “valley” are you walking through right now?

Day 18: Ditches in the Desert

1. What “dry valley” are you standing in right now?
2. What ditch might God be asking you to dig, to make room for His answer?

Day 19: Asa's Prayer

1. What "multitude" are you facing right now?
2. What would it look like to "rest on" God in this situation?

Day 20: Twenty-One Days

1. Is there a prayer you've been praying for a long time?
2. How does it encourage you that Daniel's words "were heard" from the first day?

LIVE IT

Pray for one person in the group by name every day this week.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 20:

Lord, thank You for hearing my prayers from the very first day. When the answer is delayed, help me trust that You are at work in ways I can't see. Strengthen me while I wait. Amen.

Week 5

OPEN

Which of this week's stories would you most want to tell a friend who doesn't read the Bible?

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 21: The LORD Rebuke Thee (Zechariah 3:1-5)

Day 22: It Is Written (Matthew 4:1-11)

Day 23: Passing Through the Midst (Luke 4:16-30)

Day 24: The Man Among the Tombs (Mark 5:1-20)

Day 25: Help Thou Mine Unbelief (Mark 9:14-29)

READ TOGETHER

"And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"

Zechariah 3:2 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 21: The LORD Rebuke Thee

1. What accusations do you hear most often in your own mind?
2. How does it feel to know that God answers your accuser for you?

Day 22: It Is Written

1. When are you most vulnerable to temptation?
2. Is there a verse you could memorize to stand on in that moment?

Day 23: Passing Through the Midst

1. Have you faced opposition from people who know you well?
2. How does it help to know Jesus experienced the same thing?

Day 24: The Man Among the Tombs

1. What has God set you free from?
2. Is there someone you know who seems unreachable? How might you pray for them?

Day 25: Help Thou Mine Unbelief

1. Is there an area where your faith has been worn down over time?
2. What would it sound like to pray this father's honest prayer about it?

LIVE IT

Read one of this week's passages in full from your own Bible, slowly, out loud.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 25:

Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief. You know how tired I am and how much doubt has crept in. I bring You my weak faith and ask You to make it stronger. Have compassion on me, and help. Amen.

Week 6

OPEN

Looking back over all 30 days, what is one thing God has been showing you?

REVIEW THE WEEK

Day 26: Grant Unto Thy Servants Boldness (Acts 4:1–31)

Day 27: The Seven Sons of Sceva (Acts 19:11–20)

Day 28: My Strength Is Made Perfect in Weakness (2 Corinthians 12:7–10)

Day 29: The Whole Armour of God (Ephesians 6:10–18; Acts 28:16, 30–31)

Day 30: They Overcame (Revelation 12:7–11)

READ TOGETHER

“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,”

Acts 4:29 (KJV)

TALK ABOUT IT

Day 26: Grant Unto Thy Servants Boldness

1. Where do you feel pressure to stay quiet about your faith?
2. What would it look like to pray for boldness instead of for an easier path?

Day 27: The Seven Sons of Sceva

1. Is your faith more about knowing the right words, or knowing Jesus?
2. Is there anything hidden in your life you need to bring into the light?

Day 28: My Strength Is Made Perfect in Weakness

1. Is there a “thorn” you’ve prayed about many times?
2. How have you seen God’s strength in your weakness?

Day 29: The Whole Armour of God

1. Which piece of the armor of God do you most need today?
2. Where do you need to simply “stand” instead of fight or run?

Day 30: They Overcame

1. Looking back over these 30 days, which story encouraged you the most?
2. What is your “word of testimony,” the story of what God has done for you?

LIVE IT

Write a short note to God thanking Him for one thing He did during these 30 days.

PRAY

Close by praying together, or let the leader pray this prayer from Day 30:

Lord, thank You that the victory belongs to You. Thank You for the blood of the Lamb that has overcome the accuser. Give me courage to share my testimony and to love You more than my own life. Fight for me, Lord, until the day every battle is over. Amen.

After the six weeks

Thank you for leading your group through *When God Fights for You*. If your group would like to keep going, the *When God Shows Up* series has more 30-day books, each with its own free leader guide.

- All the books and free leader guides:
jamesanthonybucci.com/leaders
- Read Bible stories free by topic:
jamesanthonybucci.com/topics
- A free 7-day devotional for anyone in your group:
jamesanthonybucci.com/free

You're welcome to print and copy this guide for your group. Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV).