

WHAT IS A WARRIOR?

Picture this – you go outside one morning and find a time machine on your doorstep. Without thinking you go inside and push the first button you see. While you are saying to yourself, ‘That was a silly thing to do,’ the time machine takes you back hundreds of years and then spits you out in the past with a sword, a shield and a helmet.

How to be a Bible Warrior

'Great!' you exclaim excitedly as you put them on – just for fun. And then you turn around as a rather loud rumble sounds out from behind you. 'Where is all that dust coming from?' you ask. 'Are those horses in the distance? Did somebody just yell, "Charge!"?' Oh no! I'm in a battle,' you gasp.

What should you do next? Should you...

- a. Run to find the nearest dragon. Warriors always have a friendly dragon don't they?
- b. Run to find the nearest dragon. Warriors need to destroy dangerous dragons don't they?
- c. Don't bother with the dragons. There might be a damsel in distress that you could help.

(Damsel is a fancy word for a girl by the way!)

Well if you answered a, b or c – you've got the wrong title. You probably wanted the fairy tale section in the bookshop – but don't worry I won't tell anyone.

And anyway if you really did find yourself a couple of hundred metres away from a charging army – I think the best thing to do would be ...

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

However, with all this talk about dragons and damsels let's get one thing straight, the stories in this book are not fairy stories or fiction, but fact.

These Bible Warriors are real. They all fought for the true God, but not all of them shed blood. They weren't perfect either. Some made mistakes, some disobeyed God and some just thought they knew best – when they obviously didn't.

'Hang on a second,' I hear you say. 'This book is called *How to be a Bible Warrior*. How can I be



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a warrior of any sort if I don't have a sword? Can I have a sword, please, please, pleaseeaaase?'

No you can't have a sword – well not a metal one anyway. Being a Bible Warrior is not about swords and spears and all that stuff. Being a true Bible Warrior is about fighting against our desire to sin and giving all the praise and glory to the one true God. We are all sinners so this is a battle we all need to fight.

The Bible Warriors we will read about teach us to stand up for the truth and to fight for what is right. We're to be warriors against sin and the devil. We're to cheer on Jesus – the Prince of Peace.

And just because Jesus is called 'The Prince of Peace' don't think that he is a walkover. Jesus is all powerful, or sovereign, but he's called Prince of Peace because he came to bring peace between sinners and God. When he died on the cross instead of sinners he took the punishment

for sin and then rose to life again on the third day. Jesus has already defeated sin and death. He is the victor. He has won!

So if the battle has been won what are we fighting for? That is a good question. I think now is the time to run through some basic words.

Battle – A lot of the stories in this book are about actual flesh and blood battles – but the real battle that Christians are fighting is a battle against evil. It's a spiritual battle. In this battle you are either on God's side or on Satan's side. Satan is the enemy of God, a fallen angel, one who is not as powerful as God, but who puts all his energy and evil nature into trying to destroy God's kingdom and God's people. However, he is losing – in fact he has lost – he just wants to keep fighting. He fights by trying to make God's people give in to sin and to stop sinners trusting in Jesus. But remember God is always in control.

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Sin – Because Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, disobeyed God (Genesis 3) every human being sins. Sin is when we disobey God. It's when we don't do what he wants us to do and it's when we do what he doesn't want us to do.

Temptation – This is the desire to sin and because human beings are born wanting to sin, it is hard to fight against it. Very often we give in. We need God's strength to fight against sin and temptation.

Do you want to be a Bible Warrior? Well trust in Christ to save you from your sin. And all right then – you can have a sword. All good warriors have a sword but your sword is the Word of God. Plug into the source of all power – God the Father through the Bible and prayer. Now read on to find out more about how you can be a Bible Warrior.

Read more: You can read about Jesus' death and resurrection in Matthew 27:32–28:20; Mark 15:16–16:19; Luke 23–24 and John 19–20