Session 4: Be Mindful of Your Salvation and God's Word

Note: These questions were pulled from the *Your Story Has a Villain Bible Study Guide* curriculum, which you can purchase at the link on the series home page. For the best group experience, order books for everyone in your group.

CONNECT

Get things started by discussing one of the following questions:

• What is something that resonated with you in last week's personal study that you would like to share with the group?

OR

 What emotions do you experience when it comes to sharing your testimony? Why does sharing your story of salvation cause you to react that way?

WATCH

Watch Session 4: *Be Mindful of Your Salvation and God's Word* (17 minutes).

DISCUSS

Now discuss what you just watched by answering the following questions.

1. Begin by asking a few people in the group to share their testimony of how they found salvation in Christ. They can describe what their life was like

before they encountered Jesus, what the actual moment they encountered Jesus was like for them, and what their life is like now after they have received the free gift of salvation from Christ. 2. Salvation is a key idea in this session. How would you describe the concept of salvation (in a spiritual sense) to someone who has never heard of it before? 3.Ask someone to read aloud Romans 12:2. How would you define "the pattern of this world"? How have you seen the Holy Spirit work in your life to transform you and give you a spiritual appetite for the things of God? 4. Now consider the question mentioned in this week's teaching about knowing God's Word. What passages of Scripture have been especially meaningful or helpful in your spiritual life? Which passages of Scripture do you use as weapons against the villain in your story? 5. Ask someone to read aloud Hebrews 4:12–13. How is the Word of God described in this passage? What can this "double-edged sword" do in your life if you choose to wield it properly?	
RESPOND	
Most people have a vague idea how to use a sword—stick the pointy end at the bad guy. However, we wouldn't be much use in an actual sword fight without the proper training. In the same way, it is helpful for us to see examples of people who have used the "sword of the Spirit" well to fight against Satan—including Jesus Himself.	
Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you	

are the Son of God, tell this stone to become	
bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall	
not live on bread alone." The devil led him up to	
a high place and showed him in an instant all the	
kingdoms of the world. 6 And he said to him, "I	
will give you all their authority and splendor; it	
has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone	
I want to. 7 If you worship me, it will all be yours."	
Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord	
your God and serve him only.'	
Luke 4:1–8	

How confident do you feel in wielding God's Word as a weapon? What would it take for you to have the same confidence in using Scripture that Jesus possessed?

PRAY

Conclude by professing the truth about salvation: We are saved by grace through faith in Christ alone. Proclaim your belief in Jesus and your desire to protect your mind with the helmet of salvation—and claim that protection out loud! Also ask that the Holy Spirit would continue to help you resist Satan and be someone "who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

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