



Faith Bible Study Guide
For the Week of January 10, 2021

“BE. STILL.”

Group or Individual Study guide

OPENING TO GOD [2 Minutes]

Greet everyone, take a deep breath and begin with 1 minute of silence to allow the group to open themselves to the Holy Spirit.

HOOK: Today’s Top Story [15 Minutes]

**Feel free to “pass” if you would rather not answer a question.*

**Please be respectful of time and give everyone a chance to share.*

1. Happy 2nd week of the New Year? How is it your soul?
2. Let’s talk about the Elephant in your home. How has the news of the first 2 weeks of the new year affected you? Your psyche, your mental well-being?
3. Have you made any “resolutions” for the new year?

BOOK: Engaging the Word [20 Minutes]

Read Psalm 46:1-10

NRSV: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm%2046%3A1-10&version=NRSV>

KJV:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+46%3A1-10&version=KJV>

The Message:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+46%3A1-10&version=MSG>

1. What is the context that the Psalmist is alluding to in Psalm 46?
2. This means WAR. How are we, as Christians in this time and place called to read this text?
3. What does “Be Still” mean to you? Particularly on this day and in this time?

LOOK: BE STILL [15 Minutes]

Listen to: “WAR,” Charles Jenkins & Fellowship Chicago

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LrloGg3TL-A>

At Faith, we tend to scale back our language on “the spiritual forces of evil” and “repenting of wickedness” and even the language of “hell and satanic.” For some denominations and even some United Methodist Churches (pending on tradition, culture and ethnicity), the “Heaven and Hell” and “Spiritual Warfare” vernacular are more entrenched in their spiritual upbringings. Sometimes the tone of the language makes us feel uncomfortable. For others it is comforting.

1. Why is that? What do you think? How has spiritual/religious language changed? (i.e. Inclusive language, conservative/progressive, fire and brimstone language, etc..)
2. Do you believe in spiritual warfare? Perhaps you have other terminology to describe it. Let’s take a look at part 1 of our Baptismal Vows as Sunday was Baptism of Our Lord Sunday.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Since the earliest times, the vows of Christian baptism have consisted first of the renunciation of all that is evil and then the profession of faith and loyalty to Christ..

On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:
Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness,
reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior,
put your whole trust in his grace,
and promise to serve him as your Lord,
in union with the Church which Christ has opened
to people of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

What does it mean for us to “renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?” What does it mean to YOU?

3. How are we called to live into a world that is always at battle, either literally or spiritually/metaphorically with one another and/or with God? How are we called by GOD to “BE STILL”?

“TOOK”: ACT [10 Minutes]

Star Words. List all of the “Be” and “Still” phrases in your heart and minds this week. Which ones speak to you the most. Keep a running list. How can we live into “Being” and the “Stillness” in 2021?

PRAY: Go In Peace [5 Minutes]

What are the prayers on your hearts and in our communities? Let us pray together.

Invite someone to close in prayer, thanking God and praying for God’s presence to continue to work in and through us as we learn to “Be Still” with Christ this Week.