

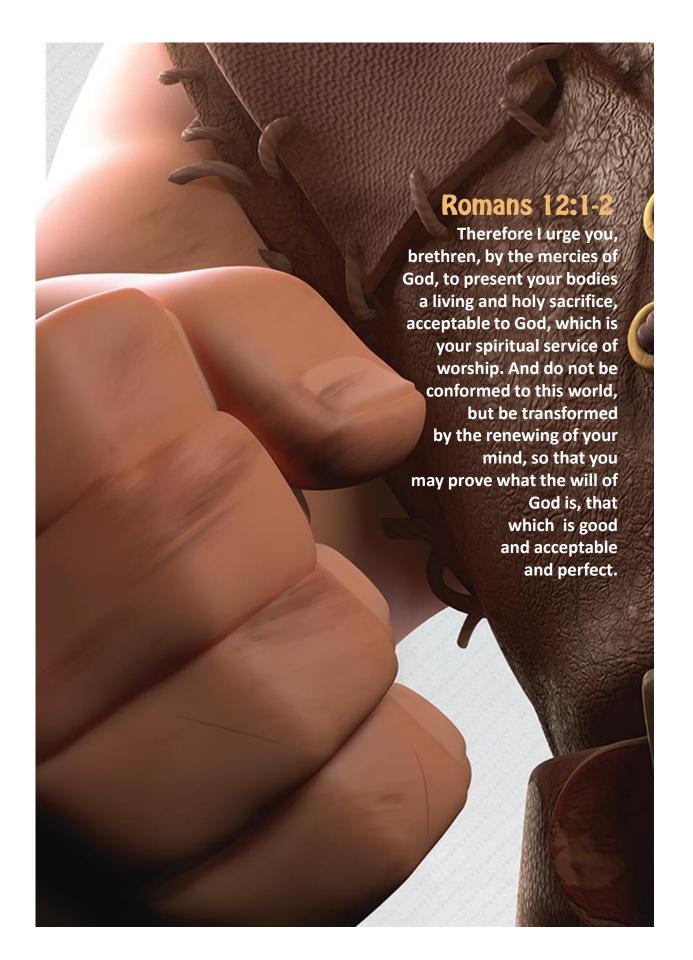
PARABLES

True Tales of Spiritual Formations



Table of Contents

Introduction: Defining Your Base
Daily Devotional
Prayer Journal
Clan Chat
What's Next



Introduction: Defining Your Base

This is your first "clan mail" this week! As we have clashed and spilled blood together, we have talked a lot about the game, but how does this game relate to our spiritual journeys? There is more in common than you might think. As we go through this week, the goal is to devote as much time to God and your spiritual journey as you have to the game. For some of you, this will take a few minutes a day, others this will consume who you are! You will get as much out of this experience as you put into it. Even if you only spend five minutes in the game, please feel free to spend more time in the devotional.

Every growing Christian needs to take time to focus on their relationship with God. Just like in Clash of Clans, we can rush our build and get in situations that we aren't ready for. Upgrading your faith consistently will prepare you better for war.

Use the below terms to help you in your journey and spend as much time in each area that you would have in similar areas in the game.

Loot - Devote yourself to God's Word

Upkeep – Pray and listen to God

Attack Strategy – Grow by asking tough questions

Replay – Evaluate every experience

Clan Chat - Build community to support you

Share Resources – Give generously to each other



We all need help at times with our walk.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Preparation Day

has begun and tomorrow we go to war,

is your build ready?

War Tutorial:

How Does It Work?



Let's start the walk through.

Loot - Devote yourself to God's Word. The Daily devotions take us through the different parables of Jesus' teaching. These Bible studies will allow you to look intently into God's Word and relate it to your own Spiritual Growth.

Upkeep – Pray and listen to God. The Prayer Journal is where you can write your prayers to God. Please use this area to record what God is doing in your life and see how He is answering prayers.

Attack Strategy – Grow by asking tough questions. As you take and honest look at the base you have designed and arranged you can ask yourself and others the questions of how well you will preform in war. The growth journal will also give you some questions to help in this evaluation.

Replay – Evaluate every experience. As our clan works through this war together we will be able to see how faired in our attacks and defense. Remember to share both the positive feedback and solutions to overcome the obstacles the next time.

Clan Chat – Build community to support you. Community is one of the most important parts of our clan! Reach out to your clan mates for their numbers and stay in contact this week. We are still in war together.

Share resources – Give generously to each other. In the game we are able to donate troops to each other, in this war our insights and prayers will be the donations of choice. The stronger your walk with God the more you should donate, but all donations are needed.

Let's Get Started!!!

DAY 1





Matthew 9:14-17

A Discussion about Fasting

- (14) One day the disciples of John the Baptist came to Jesus and asked him, "Why don't your disciples fast like we do and the Pharisees do?"
- (15) Jesus replied, "Do wedding guests mourn while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast.
- (16) "Besides, who would patch old clothing with new cloth? For the new patch would shrink and rip away from the old cloth, leaving an even bigger tear than before.
- (17) "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the old skins would burst from the pressure, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine is stored in new wineskins so that both are preserved."
- 1. Fasting is an opportunity for us to start something new in our lives a time to remove something that consumes our lives and work on our relationship with God. What are some thoughts that you have going into this fast? What are somethings that you might hope to see happen?
- 2. As we remove the old to make room for the new, why do you think Jesus makes such a big deal about the two items above?
- 3. How do you feel your other clan mates are feeling about this fast? Will you follow through on it even if the others give up?





Growth Journal
What are my personal obligations to my clan/family/friends in the next 24 hours?
How positive was my influence in the last 24 hours?
How can I improve for tomorrow?
What walls need to be broken down for me to continue my attack?
What are the three stars I hope to gain through this week?
Journaling Space (War Log)



Doing Well	
Need Improvement	Action Steps





Matthew 7:24-27

Building on a Solid Foundation

(24) "Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash."

- (28) When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching,
- (29) for he taught with real authority—quite unlike their teachers of religious law.
- 1. Fasting also helps us to take a look at our foundation or the walls of our base through this you will see where your are weak in your daily habits with God. Are there any areas that you already know need to improve?

2. When we have weak walls the battles of life tend to seem more severe. What storms are you facing in life right now and how are they affecting your walk with Christ?

3. How can your clan mate come along side you in these battles?



Prayer Journal
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Luke 12:13-21

Parable of the Rich Fool

(13) Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me." (14) Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?" (15) Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own." (16) Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. (17) He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' (18) Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. (19) And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"' (20) "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' (21) "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

1. Your base design is very important in everyday life and in a war situations. It often needs constant attention and changes. When you sit back and think that you have arrived, your base gets hit by "your mama!" How much time to you put into your spiritual base design?

2. Where in your walk have you been foolish?

3. Have you asked your clan mates to look at your base this week, what has been their feedback?



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Luke 12:35-48

Be Ready for the Lord's Coming

(35) "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, (36) as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. 37The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! 38He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready. (39) "Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into. (40) You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected." (41) Peter asked, "Lord, is that illustration just for us or for everyone?" (42) And the Lord replied, "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. (43) If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. (44) I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. (45) But what if the servant thinks, 'My master won't be back for a while,' and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? (46) The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful. (47) "And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn't prepared and doesn't carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. (48) But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.

- 1. Clan mail and clan chat are great ways of communicating, but when the leader is away troop donations and rouge attacks happen. Even though God has given us guidance on how to live out our Christian lives, what are some areas that you tend to go rouge on?
- 2. Do you clan mates have the right to call you out on your spiritual mess ups? Do you have any type of accountability in your life to help in this area?



Prayer Journal
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What can you thank God for today?
What can you thank dou for today.
How can you apply what you have learned today into your life?



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Luke 13:6-9

Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

- (6) Then Jesus told this story: "A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. (7) Finally, he said to his gardener, 'I've waited three years, and there hasn't been a single fig! Cut it down. It's just taking up space in the garden.' (8) "The gardener answered, 'Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I'll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. (9) If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down."
- 1. Clash give us stats about our online game play. We can see our donations, our attacks and even our relationships with each other. Your stats for your spiritual walk are sometimes easier to hide but are still present. Are you fruitful in your walk with Christ?

2. Where can you take your relationship with God to the next level?

3. Open up to your Leader or Co leader (Pastors and Mentors), and ask them where they see fruitfulness and unfruitfulness in your life to help you improve in these areas.



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Matthew 18:12-14

Parable of the Lost Sheep

(12) "If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them wanders away, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others on the hills and go out to search for the one that is lost? (13) And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he will rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn't wander away! (14) In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father's will that even one of these little ones should perish.

1. Community takes Clash of Clans from a game to a worth while habit. There are times that people leave the clan, become inactive or even opted out for extended periods. How can you best reach out to make sure your clan mates is not in crisis?

2. Do you feel like you have connected to a community either in the game or outside the game? What can you do to connect deeper in community or connect others in community?

3. Everyone wants to be a co-leader but how have you prepare to put your fellow clan mates before yourself?



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Need Improvement	Action Steps





Luke 14:25-33

The Cost of Being a Disciple

(25) A large crowd was following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, (26) "If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. (27) And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. (28) "But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? (29) Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. (30) They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!' (31) "Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? (32) And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. (33) So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.

- 1. What is the cost of Clash of Clans? For some it is hard work, time and lots of charging of batteries. For others, the cost is real money to buy gems. Your spiritual walk also has a cost, what are the things that you see as a cost for your journey?
- 2. We spend the time to count our troops for war and look at the match ups in the game, will you now put the same effort in your spiritual walk everyday? What do you need to change to do this?

3. How can your clan mates come along side you in this process?



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Write Clan Phone Numbers Here

What's Next

Clash of Clans is a great opportunity for community, stress relief and just plain fun in your life.

It should not replace the things that add value to your spiritual walk.

Please take some time to put your priorities in order before diving back into the game. Opt in when you are ready for war and remember that your clan mates are here and have your back.

- Flash