

# DARK HORSE | WEEK 1

## READ

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**Job 39:19** *“Do you give the horse its strength or clothe its neck with a flowing mane?  
20 Do you make it leap like a locust, striking terror with its proud snorting?  
21 It paws fiercely, rejoicing in its strength, and charges into the fray.  
22 It laughs at fear, afraid of nothing; it does not shy away from the sword.  
23 The quiver rattles against its side, along with the flashing spear and lance.  
24 In frenzied excitement it eats up the ground, it cannot stand still when the trumpet sounds.  
25 At the blast of the trumpet it snorts, ‘Aha!’ It catches the scent of battle from afar,  
the shout of commanders and the battle cry.*

I'm not about picking fights, but I do think when it comes to our fight against the principalities and powers under the authority of Satan, I would like to be on the offense more than defense. When I wake up in the morning I want Satan and his demons to say, "Oh, crap!" I want the way I live life to cause a stir in hell, to catch them off guard on some days and to give them fits. I would love to be such a fierce force for the kingdom, that it would strike terror in the dark realm. In the same way that the demons shuttered in the presence of Jesus and fled at the mention of his name, I would love for my life to cause a similar response.

*RE-Read the passage, thinking about the spiritual battle against Satan, sin, and despair that you're called to fight in.*

## CONNECT

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When I think of this kind of tenacious opposition to the enemy, I think of the well-known, archetypal story of David and Goliath. The story is told in 1 Samuel 17, where the wet-behind-the-ears shepherd boy was left behind in the fields to tend the sheep instead of preparing with his kinsmen to meet the Philistines with fierce fighting. As a teenage boy, David stepped up to the plate, fully aware of the stature and strength of his opponent. While the rest of the Israelites were fear-ridden, David told King Saul, "Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." I want to us to live out that kind of courageous faith, believing in the power of the Lord in us. Goliath's response wasn't fear though. It wasn't, "Oh, crap!" It was laughter. It was scoffing. It was an incredulous and pompous response of certain victory. Yet David remained steadfast and confident in the Lord's work through him. He said, "All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands." Unlike the people of Israel, David was filled with faith in the face of the giant. He took dominion of the opportunity instead of the situation adversely dominating him. In other words, David happened to the problem rather than the problem happening to David.

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## APPLY

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I'm tired of feeling dominated by diabolical emotions and conditions, I want to feel dominion for a change, a strength of spirit that is proactively agitating the schemes of the enemy and foiling them with my fearsome heart. I want my 'snort' to strike terror in the enemy, like the horse. I want to rise to the occasion, like David. I want to look the Philistine giant in the eyes and say with confidence, "you're going down."

Think about your own story. Everyone is fighting a battle of some sort - some for their marriage, some for their kids, some for victory over sin, some for purity of heart and mind, some for releasing bitterness and offering forgiveness. Whatever your battle, Jesus wants you to be victorious. Paul calls us "more than conquerors" in Christ Jesus. You have the power to be victorious. To rise above. To take down the giant. To be the overcomer.

## REFLECT

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- Think about David's statements of encouragement. In what battles do you need to determine to "not lose heart" this week?
- Think about areas of opposition or struggle in your life and consider the difference it would make as you approach these if you were to immerse yourself in David's words, "...for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of \_\_\_\_\_ into our hands."
- Read Ephesians 6:10-20 together. Who is our battle against, according to those verses? And, what weapons do you need to proactively take up for the battle?
- Share a story of a time when you were playing a game or sport and had to play defensively. What about offensively - was there a time that you were on the offensive? Compare how you felt, how the team operated, etc...
- The horse was proud, or confident in its strength. Do you have dominion and confidence in your life, or are you dominated by struggle, failure, or insecurity?
- What can you do this week to attack life with dominion and confidence?