

BATTLE READY

GROUP STUDY STARTER KIT

*Equipping Men for Discipleship, Leadership,
and Kingdom Mission*

ONE BOOK. ONE SQUAD. ONE MISSION.

Fides et Virtus Ministry
Adam Maxey

*“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the LORD Almighty.
— Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)*

WELCOME TO BATTLE READY

Battle Ready was written because I became convinced there was a need that was not being adequately met. For those who have served, the language of mission, discipline, sacrifice, readiness, and standing firm is familiar. Yet no earthly identity, even an honorable one, was ever meant to carry the weight of our ultimate purpose. Our identity and enduring purpose are found in Jesus Christ.

This Starter Kit is designed to help you take Battle Ready off the page and into a group. The goal is not merely to finish a book. The goal is to open Scripture together, challenge one another honestly, strengthen faith, pursue obedience, and become men who are prepared to help others stand firm.

Battle Ready is intentionally a foundation. It introduces the spiritual battlefield, the armor God provides, and the enduring commands that shape faithful Christian life. The authority is not in the author or the military analogy; it is in the Word of God. Use this guide accordingly: read the book, but test everything by Scripture.

BE EQUIPPED. EQUIP OTHERS. MULTIPLY.

My prayer is that your group would know Christ more deeply, trust Him more fully, faithfully contend for the gospel, and remain battle ready until the day we stand before our King.

Coram Deo, — Adam Maxey

1. THE MISSION

The objective of a Battle Ready group is transformation, not information alone. Scripture calls believers to mature in Christ, stand firm in truth, obey what God has commanded, carry one another's burdens, and entrust what they have learned to others.

Four Mission Priorities

Know Christ. The Christian life begins and remains centered on Jesus Christ. The group should continually move beyond military imagery and personal stories to the person and work of Christ.

Know the Word. Battle Ready repeatedly points readers back to Scripture. Read the assigned passages in context. Ask what the text actually says before asking what it means for you.

Live in obedience. A good discussion that produces no response is incomplete. Each meeting should move toward concrete obedience.

Equip another person. The mission does not terminate with the current group. Mature disciples intentionally help others follow Christ.

Core Scriptures

Matthew 28:18–20 • Ephesians 4:11–16 • Galatians 6:2 • 2 Timothy 2:2 • James 1:22–25

**The measure of success is not how much the group talks.
It is whether men are becoming more faithful to Christ.**

2. ASSEMBLE YOUR SQUAD

You do not need a large group or a formal classroom. You need men willing to show up, open Scripture, speak honestly, pray for one another, and obey Christ.

Recommended size	4–12 participants
Frequency	Weekly
Meeting length	60–90 minutes
Location	Church, home, coffee shop, garage, workplace, online, or another setting conducive to honest discussion
What to bring	Bible, Battle Ready, notes, and a willingness to participate

The Leader's Job

The leader does not need to have every answer. His responsibility is to prepare, keep the group anchored to Scripture, facilitate honest discussion, protect confidentiality, redirect speculation when necessary, and help the men move from discussion to obedience. He should also challenge the group to think deeply - beyond conventional, rehearsed, or surface-level answers. Encourage the men to examine assumptions, wrestle honestly with difficult questions, and submit their conclusions to the authority of God's Word rather than simply repeating what they have always heard.

- Read the assigned material before the meeting.
- Identify the central biblical text and read it in context.
- Ask questions rather than dominating the conversation.
- Challenge the group to think deeply, question assumptions, and move beyond conventional answers while remaining grounded in Scripture.
- Make room for quieter members to speak.
- Follow up when a man reveals a real burden or struggle.
- Know when a pastoral, medical, or professional issue is beyond the group's role and requires appropriate help.

3. RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

Healthy groups require trust. Establish these expectations at the first meeting and revisit them whenever necessary.

SHOW UP. Consistency matters. Your presence communicates that the group and the men in it are worth your time.

COME PREPARED. Complete the assigned reading and arrive ready to discuss what challenged you.

BRING YOUR BIBLE. Battle Ready is a resource. Scripture is the authority.

BE HONEST. Do not give the answer you think a Christian is supposed to give. Speak truthfully about where you are.

MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY. Personal matters shared in the group stay in the group, except when safety or law requires appropriate intervention.

CARRY BURDENS—DON'T CREATE DEPENDENCE. Support one another without trying to become another man's savior. Point one another to Christ.

THINK DEEPLY. Do not settle for the first, safest, or most familiar answer. Ask why you believe what you believe, examine assumptions, and let Scripture challenge you.

DISAGREE WITH CHARITY. Test ideas against Scripture without treating another person as the enemy.

TAKE ACTION. End each meeting by identifying a concrete act of obedience for the coming week.

4. HOW TO RUN A BATTLE READY MEETING

Use the same basic rhythm each week. Consistency allows the group to spend less energy figuring out the meeting and more energy engaging Scripture and one another.

10 min	CHECK-IN	Where did you struggle? Where did you see God working? Did you follow through on last week's challenge?
10 min	SCRIPTURE	Read the central passage aloud and establish what the text says in context.
30–40 min	DISCUSSION	Work through the chapter and discussion questions. Keep returning to Scripture.
10 min	MISSION	What truth requires a response? What specific action will you take this week?
10 min	PRAYER REQUESTS & INTERCESSION	End every session by inviting specific prayer requests. Give the men room to name real burdens, then intercede for one another specifically - families, struggles, repentance, healing, witness, obedience, and the mission God has placed before them.
After	FOLLOW-UP	Check on one another during the week. Discipleship does not happen only during the meeting.

Leader Tip

Do not feel obligated to finish every question. A single honest conversation rooted in Scripture may be more fruitful than racing through a page of prompts. The goal is not coverage; it is faithful engagement.

5. THE FIVE-QUESTION DISCUSSION FRAMEWORK

Every chapter in Battle Ready already includes discussion questions, a challenge, and prayer. Use those questions as a starting point, not a ceiling. The leader should press the group to think deeply, test assumptions, and move beyond conventional answers while remaining submitted to Scripture. When the conversation needs a simple framework - or goes deeper than the printed questions - use these five.

1. WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY?

What biblical truth is central to this week's reading? What does the passage say in context? What does it reveal about God, humanity, sin, salvation, obedience, or the Christian mission?

2. WHERE AM I?

Where does my life currently align with this truth? Where does it not? What did this chapter expose, correct, strengthen, or clarify?

3. WHAT IS THE OBSTACLE?

What sin, fear, habit, distraction, false belief, wound, pride, or competing allegiance makes obedience difficult?

4. WHAT IS THE MISSION?

What specific act of obedience should follow? Make it concrete enough that the group can ask about it next week.

5. WHO AM I EQUIPPING?

Who else needs the truth God is teaching me? How can I encourage, teach, serve, or disciple that person without making myself the center?

6. 8-WEEK FIRE TEAM PLAN

This accelerated plan works well for a launch group, men's ministry series, or group that wants to move through the major movements of Battle Ready in two months.

Week	Reading	Focus
1	Chs. 1–2	The AO: spiritual warfare and the enemy's tactics
2	Chs. 3–5	The Kit: truth, righteousness, and readiness
3	Chs. 6–9	The Kit: faith, salvation, Scripture, and prayer
4	Ch. 10	The Orders: God's enduring commands
5	Chs. 11–12	Undivided loyalty: no other gods and no idols
6	Chs. 13–15	God's name, holy time, and honoring family
7	Chs. 16–18	Murder, adultery, and theft
8	Chs. 19–20 + Conclusion	Truthfulness, contentment, and the mission ahead

Recommended Weekly Preparation

- Read the assigned Battle Ready chapters.
- Read the chapter's Key Scripture in its surrounding biblical context.
- Complete the chapter challenge before the next meeting when practical.
- Write down one truth to remember, one area to repent or grow, and one action to take.

7. 12-WEEK SQUAD PLAN

This is the recommended group pace. It gives the armor of God and the Ten Commandments enough room for discussion without turning the study into a semester-long course.

Week	Reading	Focus
1	Chs. 1–2	The AO: understand the battlefield and the enemy
2	Chs. 3–4	Truth and righteousness
3	Chs. 5–6	Readiness and faith
4	Chs. 7–9	Salvation, the Word, and prayer
5	Ch. 10	Why God’s commands still matter
6	Chs. 11–12	Worship and undivided allegiance
7	Chs. 13–14	God’s name and Sabbath
8	Ch. 15	Honor, family, and formation
9	Ch. 16	Murder, anger, combat, and reconciliation
10	Chs. 17–18	Sexual faithfulness and stewardship
11	Chs. 19–20	Truthfulness and contentment
12	Conclusion + review	Stand firm, identify next steps, and equip another person

8. SCRIPTURE MAP FOR GROUP LEADERS

Battle Ready includes biblical resources for further study. These passages are especially useful when a group needs to go deeper than the chapter discussion.

Spiritual warfare	Ephesians 6:10–18; James 4:7–10; 1 Peter 5:6–11; 2 Corinthians 10:3–5
Identity in Christ	Romans 8:14–17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 1:3–14
Fear and anxiety	Psalms 23; Psalm 46; Isaiah 41:10; Philippians 4:4–9; 2 Timothy 1:7
Temptation	Matthew 4:1–11; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Hebrews 4:14–16; James 1:12–15
Prayer	Matthew 6:5–15; Romans 8:26–27; Philippians 4:6–7; James 5:13–18
Obedience	Deuteronomy 6:4–9; John 14:15; Romans 12:1–2; James 1:22–25
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1–17; Deuteronomy 5:6–21; Matthew 22:34–40; Romans 13:8–10
The Great Commission	Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13–17; 2 Timothy 2:2

9. THE MISSION CONTINUES

Battle Ready is a foundation, not a finish line. The goal of this study is not simply to complete a book but to help believers stand firm in Christ, grow in obedience, and continue maturing through Scripture, prayer, fellowship, and faithful service.

As this study closes, ask what comes next. Where is God calling you to grow? What habits need to continue? Who needs your encouragement? How can you become more useful to your local church and more intentional in the mission Christ has entrusted to His people?

THE NEXT STEP

Battle Ready is the first book in the Fides et Virtus Ministry trilogy. The next book, Embrace the Suck, continues the journey by exploring how God uses hardship, suffering, perseverance, and sanctification to shape His people. Groups that want to continue together may move into Embrace the Suck when it becomes available, but the most important next step is not another book - it is continued faithfulness to Christ and His Word.

End-State Questions

- What has God changed in me during this study?
- Where do I still need accountability and growth?
- What spiritual discipline needs to become a lasting habit?
- How can I encourage or strengthen another believer with what I have learned?
- How will I remain connected to and serve faithfully in the local church?

10. THE BATTLE READY COMMITMENT

This commitment is not a vow of self-reliance. It is a statement of dependence upon Christ and a deliberate response to what God has revealed through His Word.

I WILL NOT BE A PASSIVE CHRISTIAN.

By God's grace, I will pursue Christ, submit myself to His Word, resist sin, serve His Church, carry the burdens of my brothers, live on mission, and intentionally invest what God has entrusted to me into others.

I WILL STAND FIRM.

I WILL CONTINUE TO GROW.

I WILL HELP OTHERS DO THE SAME.

Name: _____

Date: _____

One person I will intentionally invest in: _____

My next act of obedience: _____

“Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God...” — Ephesians 6:10–11 (NIV)

LEADER LAUNCH CHECKLIST

- Choose your group and meeting schedule.
- Ask participants to obtain a copy of Battle Ready.
- Select the 8-week or 12-week plan.
- Send the first reading assignment before the first meeting.
- Establish the Rules of Engagement together.
- Keep Scripture - not the book, the leader, or the military analogy - at the center, and challenge the group to think deeply rather than settling for conventional answers.
- End every meeting with a concrete response, specific prayer requests, and intercession for one another.
- Follow up during the week.
- At the end of the study, identify how each participant will continue growing and encouraging others in Christ.

THE MISSION DOESN'T END WITH YOU.

Stand firm. Know the Word. Obey Christ. Equip others.

BATTLE READY

A Call to Stand Firm in Christ, Fortifying Those Who Serve with Biblical Armor

Fides et Virtus Ministry

© 2026 Adam Maxey. Starter Kit prepared for group use with Battle Ready. Scripture quotations marked NIV are from the Holy Bible, New International Version.