

Week of 3/27/22 Eph. 6:10-23 We Battle

The Bigger Picture:

- Are you ready to help your members take stock of their spiritual growth using the Spiritual Health Assessment? That's what we will be doing the week of April 3. This will propel our groups to have three follow up conversations in "pods" or pairs using a discussion guide. These conversations can be over the course of a few hours, or a few weeks. **Check your email next week** for the link to the guide - you'll send it out to your group members via text or email with instructions for how to access it.
- Be thinking about how you can encourage your members to pair up to debrief the assessment and go through these Discussion Guides together.
- Have you prepared your members to celebrate Good Friday (April 15) and Easter (April 17)? [Check out your location's details](#), plus tons of resources to make Easter meaningful.
- Your group has made it all the way through Ephesians together. That is an accomplishment! Next up will be a two-week series called "The End." Stay tuned as our pastors take us through Mark 13.

This Week's Goals:

We conclude the book of Ephesians this week with the grand catalog of the Armor of God. Help members understand how each piece is essential for Kingdom living and how we use our armor to stand against the evil one.

Multiplication Moment:

You and your apprentice have worked hard this semester! Make sure you thank your apprentice for their willingness to lead. A little public recognition never hurts!

Leader Tips:

What did he just say? Opening up in small group can be difficult for members, especially as we encourage vulnerability. Consider how you respond when others speak:

- Thank people for opening up
- Ask follow-up questions
- Ask other members to respond to what they just heard.

STORIES (15 min)

Sharing God Stories:

Leader, share how *you've* seen God at work in your life this week. What, if anything, will you do differently because of it? Ask a few others to share in the same way.

Get Talking:

If you could possess any superpower, what would it be and why?

Prayer: Transition from Stories to Scripture by asking someone to pray for your time in God's Word.

SCRIPTURE (45 min) - These are our Group Chat Questions for this week:

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

How do we put on the strength of the Lord? Why do you think Paul used the parts of a Roman soldier's armor to explain spiritual warfare? With whom or what do we struggle? (12) How are we to fight this unseen enemy? (13) What does wearing the armor of God enable us to do? (13)

Each piece of the armor is descriptive of what Christ has already accomplished for us. In your own words, describe the truth represented by each piece of armor. Are you missing any pieces of armor? How does this make you vulnerable to the enemy? What part does faith play in your experiencing the victory that is already yours in Christ? In what areas does your faith in Christ need to be strengthened?

What role does God's word play in spiritual warfare? (17) How will you better arm yourself with God's word this week? What role does prayer have in defeating the enemy's schemes? What does it mean to "pray in the Spirit"? How can you stay alert to the enemy's traps? How often do you pray for other believers? Why is this important? Who do you know that needs to be covered with prayer?

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY

2 Kings 6:15-18; Dan 10: 12-14; Matt 4:1-11, 13:19-20; John 10:10; 2 Cor 4:4, 10:3-4; Eph 4:26-27; Col 2:15; 2 Tim 2:26; 1 Thess 2:18, 3:5; Heb 2:14; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 3:8, 4:4

PRAYER (20 min)

Prayer Focus: Pray you will start each day by spending time with the Lord, putting on each piece of armor (Eph 6:11-18). As you think through the significance of each truth, agree with God (out loud). By doing this you are renewing your mind and standing firm in your faith; faith in what God has done and what He promises to do, for you and through you.

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