

Discussion Guide

“It’s Time To Grow Up”, wk 7: The Armor of God

February 19, 2023



Big Idea

We are in a battle for our heart, soul, & mind as our enemy, Satan, seeks to steal, kill & destroy us.



Icebreaker

Did you play a sport in school? If so, what sport and what is a favorite memory from it?



Discussion Questions

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What is the purpose of this armor and why do we need it; what does it enable us to do? As a group list, don’t discuss, just list as we will talk more deeply about each one below, the various pieces of armor mentioned here (there are 7 of them). What does the fact that God provides this (His) armor for us tell us about Him?
2. To remember that *our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but fight against the rulers, authorities, powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms* (v12) when we are amid the battle is difficult enough. Yet added to that is that as Christians we are commanded to love others & pray for those that seem to be against us. How can we accomplish this? How does the entirety of Ephesians 6:10-18 help us to pursue doing so?
3. Re-read Ephesians 6:14. What was shared in the sermon about the practical purposes of a soldier’s belt in Paul’s time? What can the belt of truth do for a believer and why is this important? What does the breastplate of a worldly soldier protect? What are ways that our spiritual enemy, Satan, can attack the area of us that the breastplate protects? Why is it important for our faith journey that we protect this area of us?
4. Re-read Ephesians 6:15. What does having the proper, and in good working order, pair of shoes allow one to do in everyday life/tasks? How does this translate into our faith journey (a.k.a. how does having our “gospel of peace” footwear on help us to stay standing in our faith?
5. Re-read Ephesians 6:16. In the sermon it was pointed out how, that often, soldiers under attack in Paul’s time would come together using their shields to cover one another. How may this play out in a community of believers with one or more amidst a spiritual battle?
6. Read Ephesians 6:17. What do the two pieces of armor mentioned in this verse do for the believer? Which one is an offensive piece of armor? Can this offensive piece be used both responsibly & helpfully and irresponsibly & harmfully? What makes the difference and how can you assure you utilize it well?



Concluding Question

Re-read Ephesians 6:18. This is often missed by those listing out a believer’s spiritual armor because it is not assigned to a specific piece of armor. Why did the sermon suggest it may not be linked to a specific piece, indicating it’s importance? How important do you *really* treat prayer (i.e. *How much time do you regularly dedicate to it? OR Is it secondary to your “taking action”?*)



Application

1. What do you think the Holy Spirit may be saying to you through this sermon and our discussion?
2. What is something God wants you to do now?
3. Is there a way we can help each other apply what God is showing us?



Prayer

As the series “It’s Time to Grow Up” concludes, pray that our learnings will go forward in time.