



Lesson Aim: To grow in our understanding of how spiritual warfare is fought and won through the protection we have in Christ.



connecting

Prayer: Start your time together by asking the Holy Spirit to lead your discussion and for God to speak to everyone present.

Icebreaker: Share about a time when you felt protected.

1. **Read Ephesians 6:10-13.** Paul emphasizes that our struggle is not against human beings (flesh and blood) and also urges his readers to stand firm in the battle against the devil. What are some ways we are susceptible to instability and vulnerability as Christians?

2. **Read Ephesians 6:14-17.** When Paul wrote Ephesians, he may have been chained to a Roman soldier, which would have provided visual inspiration for his analogy of the “Armor of God”. How might the Armor of God be helpful for Christians in dealing with those areas of instability and vulnerability we just mentioned?

3. Which piece (or pieces) of armor have you seen God use in your life recently to protect you in spiritual battles? Explain.

4. Which piece (or pieces) of armor do you feel the weakest in? Why?

5. What are some things you can personally do this week to grow stronger in this piece (or pieces) of the Armor of God?

6. **Read Ephesians 6:18-20.** Paul urges all kinds of prayers, which is easier talked about than done in the life of the believer. What are some obstacles you face in fighting the battle of prayer more effectively?

7. What are some examples of how you have experienced spiritual victory in prayer?

8. In the message Sunday, Josh mentioned that these commands about the Armor of God are in the plural form (to a community of believers) not in the singular form (to individuals only). What are some ways we can help each other grow strong in the Lord with the Armor of God and in prayer?



growing



sewing



reaching

Take some time to pray about the spiritual battles your group is facing and however else God leads you.

Why We Need the Protection of Christ (Ephesians 6:10-13)

- We are in a spiritual battle that is supernatural, personal and daily.
- The only way to experience victory (or even survive) this battle is through the protection and strength of Christ.
 - “Be strong” (*endunamouthe*) – passive, continuous and imperative.

The Protective Power of the Armor of God (Ephesians 6:14-17)

- The Armor of God represents all that we are in Christ and all that we have in Christ.
- We already have the Armor (our position before God in Christ) but we still have to put it on (for the daily battles we face).
- The Armor is for believers living in community, not for individuals doing it on their own.
- The Belt of Truth (John 14:6)
- The Breastplate of Righteousness
 - imputed righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21)
 - the practice of confession: “to acknowledge or agree with” (1 John 1:9)
- The Sandals or Footwear of the Gospel of Peace
 - peace with God (Romans 5:1)
 - peace of God (John 14:27)
 - advancing the message of God’s peace (2 Corinthians 5:20)
- The Shield of Faith (1 John 5:4)
- The Helmet of Salvation (1 Thessalonians 5:8)
- The Sword of the Spirit: The Word of God (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; Hebrews 4:12)

The Protective Power of Prayer (Ephesians 6:18-20)

- Prayer that is Spirit-led, comprehensive and persistent.
- For non-believers: pray *against* spiritual blindness and *for* an understanding of the truth about Jesus.
- For believers: pray *against* the lies that we have little or no spiritual power, and *for* us to embrace our position, authority and protection in Christ.