

KEY SCRIPTURE & SERMON POINTS:

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. **Ephesians 6:10-11 ESV**

"You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies." **John 8:44 ESV**

"Thank God! Once you were slaves of sin, but now you wholeheartedly obey this teaching we have given you. Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living." **Romans 6:17-18 NLT**

"For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins." **Colossians 1:13-14 NLT**

"Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God." **Ephesians 2:1-2 NLT**

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places....¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. **Ephesians 6:12 & 18-19 ESV**

¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication... **Ephesians 6:14-18 ESV**

"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me." **John 15:5 CSB**

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." **2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV**

"But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you." **James 4:6-8 CSB**

¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. **Ephesians 6:18-20**

"But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, 'How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!' But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, 'Lord, who has believed our message?'" **Romans 10:14-16 NLT**

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Start Thinking. Lead your group to explore the Biblical principles of the passage(s).

- Read our main passage, Ephesians 6:10-20. What stands out to you in the description of the Armor of God? Why?
- Discuss the notion that "the armor of God is not worn by us; it is formed in us." How does this perspective shift the way we approach spiritual growth and preparedness?
- Can you think of any biblical characters who experienced a weakening of their "spiritual armor" due to independence from God? Conversely, who are examples of those who demonstrated strong armor through their dependence on God?
- How do the passages from John 8:44, Romans 6:17-18, Colossians 1:13-14, and Ephesians 2:1-2 contribute to our understanding of our identity before and after coming to faith in Christ? How does this change affect our engagement in spiritual warfare?
Note for GC Leader: These passages were supplemental to the 2nd point in your Sunday Follow Along, "We Are Provocateurs" Eph 6:12 & 18-19.

Start Sharing. Lead your group to express their understanding of the content on a personal level.

- How has your understanding or experience of spiritual warfare changed since you began following Christ? Can you relate to the concept of being a "defector" from the kingdom of darkness?
- Reflect on the idea of Christians being provocateurs simply by existing as light in a dark world. How does this reality impact your sense of purpose and daily living?
- Which piece of the spiritual armor do you feel is strongest in you? Which do you want to see more developed? Share your thoughts and reasons.
- Describe your view of your role in spiritual warfare? How has this message impacted your view? Ex. Has it changed your view? Has it solidified a view you already had? Articulate this view to the best of your ability.
GC Leader, consider "ping-ponging" their answers here and ask follow up questions to help your group flesh out their thoughts
- After hearing others answer the former question, take some time as a group and write out your own personal spiritual warfare statement. Use the template: "My role in spiritual warfare is to _____."
Share your answers with the group.
- One of the purposes of the Armor of God is to advance the Gospel through spiritual warfare, not make one's life easier by eliminating all battles. Discuss your thoughts on the common idea of Christians wanting to use the armor to "win a battle and retire from the war."

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Pray every day this week, "Lord, use me to advance the Gospel today."

Start Praying. Pray this prayer in your own words with your group.

- *Father in Heaven, we fight from victory, not for victory. It is already won in Christ, and we thank you for that! Lord, please form the Armor of God in us through holy relationship with you! And use us to brightly shine your light, which casts out the darkness of this world. Help us have eyes to see what you're doing spiritually in our lives and the lives of those around us that we may march forward with confidence and wisdom. Use us to advance your Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven! We ask all of this in Jesus' name, amen!!!!*