

## THE ARMOR OF GOD EPHESIANS 6:10-24

### LESSON PREP

We may not be aware of it, but a spiritual war rages around us every day. This is an essential observation that we need to grasp as we go through life. Even though we can't see the powers, both godly and demonic, we have to be aware of their reality in the world. This week, your students will see how Paul offers not just a description of this reality, but also specifics on how we as Christians can prepare ourselves for battle every day.

### PRE LG SAMPLE TEXT MESSAGE QUESTIONS

Are you ready for battle? Tell us about how you spiritually prepare for everyday life tonight at small group.

What are some things you are doing to "stand firm" against the schemes of the devil? Let's talk about it at small group tonight.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Ephesians 6:11-12

### 1ON1 FOLLOWUP

Walkthrough his/her prayer life and how they can improve and deepen it for standing firm for God.

### INTRODUCTION

- What is your favorite war movie? Why or why not?
- How do scenes of war in movies or TV shows fall short of reality?
- Why is preparation such an essential part to victory in battle?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Watching battle scenes in movies like Pearl Harbor or Black Hawk Down lets us see Hollywood's interpretations of how those battles looked and felt. But if we were really there, we would experience war's realities with all five of our senses. Those battle scenes offer a mere shadow of the war being fought around Christians on a daily basis. The reality is that we are involved in a spiritual battle each day. We may not see it, but it's there, and the Apostle Paul offers some wisdom on how to prepare ourselves for what we might encounter each day.*

#### 1. Turn to God as your source of strength.

- What different sources of strength are in your life? How do these strengths compare to what you read in this passage?
- What are some of your responses, reactions, or images when you hear people talk about the armor of God?
- In verse 12, Paul clearly states that we can't see the enemy and that we aren't using human weapons. How do you reconcile this reality with the need that we as humans have to see and touch and experience things?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *As Christians, we are in a battle bigger than any war throughout human history. The spiritual battle that is raging around us is against the cosmic forces in the heavenly places, and we need to take a step back and make sure that we are taking this passage seriously. God is the one who gives us the strength and might to stand firm and hold our spiritual ground.*

#### 2. Wear the full armor of God.

- Look at verses 13-17. What do you think happens to Christians if they only take up a few parts of the armor, instead of the whole armor, as Paul says?
- When do you see yourself as most vulnerable to attacks from the enemy? How can the armor of God prepare and protect you for those moments?
- Which piece of the armor of God do you find easiest to wear? Which is most difficult? Why?

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *The armor of God isn't like a genie in the bottle that will help you through your tough times or when things aren't going your way. As Paul clearly states, it is a way for us to recognize God's power over evil forces and for us to receive the appropriate strength to stand firm against these forces. Trying to do these things on our own will only allow us to fall back in the likeness of the old self. We need to daily put on the armor of God as a way to prepare for that day—and whatever is thrown our way.*

#### 3. Make prayer a priority.

- Look at verses 18-20. Why and how is prayer necessary when engaged in a spiritual battle?
- Communicating with your commander is a significant part of the ongoing daily routine for a soldier. If we are engaged in a battle as significant as the spiritual battle around us, how important is prayer in your life? Explain the role of prayer in your daily life right now.
- Paul says in verse 18 that we ought to be praying at all times in the Spirit. Give two or three reasons why Paul would say this.

### APPLICATION

After reading and discussing these Scriptures today, what are some areas in your life where you desire to change? What are you doing to help others in the process of standing firm against the schemes of the devil? How are you making it a priority to pray on a daily basis not only for your own struggles, but also for the entire body of Christ?