We Are Fighting a Battle
SERIES BIG IDEA
Working through the book of Ephesians, we will discover where we are, and our next step on our PATHWAY with Jesus.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA
We are fighting a spiritual battle that is not about flesh and blood.

OPENING QUESTIONS
1. How are you doing on a scale of 1 to 5? (1 is not good, 5 is awesome) What would make you move further up the scale?

A SPIRUTAL BATTLE
Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:10-12

2. What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “Spiritual Warfare”?

A thorough knowledge of the tactics of the enemy is helpful in any battle we are trying to win. Paul suggests that the devil has “schemes” for us to stand against.

3. Have you always considered the devil real, why or why not?

4. Paul uses the words “flesh and blood” to describe people. Paul is essentially saying, “there is only one enemy, and it is not each other.” If people aren’t the enemy, why do humans spend so much time fighting each other?

Pastor Dan Southerland says, the devil has three “schemes” and he plays them over and over:
Discouragement – thinking life, us, or the mission doesn’t matter
Distraction – we are distracted from the mission of Jesus
Division – we become weak in battle because we are divided instead of united

5. Which one of the 3 D’s are you most susceptible to? Why?

6. How does recognizing that the devil is at work change how you see the battle?

THE ARMOR OF GOD
Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Ephesians 6:13-17

7. Go around the room and share which piece of the armor of God is most important to you in the battles you are fighting right now?
Small Group Discussion Guide
PATHWAY

PRAYER
And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.
Ephesians 6:18-20

Paul continues by saying prayer is essential, perhaps as essential as the other pieces of the armor of God.

8. Is prayer easy or hard for you? Why?
9. Why do you think Paul describes prayer as being so important?
10. Share a time that prayer made a difference for you.

MICRO GROUP
Get into smaller micro-groups of 3 or 4 for the remainder of this discussion guide. Micro groups should be same sex – all men or all women. Keep these same micro groups throughout this series.

H2O – Habits to Outcome
Spiritual habits (Bible engagement, prayer, accountability, journaling, and serving) lead to the outcomes of Character Transformation* and Calling Activation*. In this series we will focus on the habit of Bible engagement as we read through the Book of Ephesians together.

11. Share one takeaway from PATHWAY that has helped you move forward in your journey with Jesus.

Last week we read through Ephesians 5 and journaled something God was saying to us.

12. Share what you journaled with the group.

This week we will:
Read Ephesians 6 and journal these two questions: What is God saying to me? What am I going to do about it?

Close your micro group by praying for each other.

*Character Transformation means that your character is demonstrating the fruits of the Spirit as you become more like Jesus. (Galatians 5:22-23)

*Calling Activation means that you are living out your primary calling as a disciple maker. (Matthew 28:19-20)