

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Not in a small group? Contact us at smallgroups@myriversidechurch.com

Ice Breaker: What is your least favorite article of clothing to put on each day? Why?

Talk It Over Together: *(Note: If your group is only meeting bi-weekly, cover the first 2 discussion questions of each week. If time allows, go back to the remaining questions.)*

1. Read and discuss Ephesians 6:14 and 2 Corinthians 5:21. Pastor Tom explained that holy living is obtained as we put on the Breastplate of Righteousness. This piece of armor is basic protection against the evil one's unrighteous character. How have you seen God-honoring choices (little or big) help someone "stand their ground" against the evil one?
2. Pastor Tom explained that the Shoes of Peace are a key piece of the Armor of God because "when conflict and hardship come, we don't have to panic." Read and discuss Ephesians 6:15; Philippians 4:6-7; and Ephesians 2:13-14a. Have you experienced peace at a time when you normally wouldn't have? Have you grown in your ability to rest in God's peace as you have grown in your relationship with Jesus? How might you grow in your ability to consistently "put on" the Shoes of Peace?
3. Read and discuss Acts 19:13-16. Why do you think these men were unsuccessful in casting out the demon? In the message on Sunday, Pastor Tom said, "God's Word isn't powerful because we can quote it, but because of Who gives it power. God's powerful Word, properly used, is an awesome weapon that can tear down the evil one's strongholds, demolish his footholds, combat his temptations, and will cause him to flee." Have you ever experienced the power of God's Word in your life? Explain.
4. As Pastor Tom concluded his teaching, he stated that "God's armor is powerfully effective when utilized by followers of Jesus who are "all-in" in following Jesus as Lord and long to please and serve Him with all their being. (Furthermore), each piece of armor corresponds to Jesus Himself." Read and discuss Romans 13:14; Galatians 3:27; and Colossians 3:12-14. What would your life look like if each day you clothed yourself with God's armor—with Jesus Himself?

PERSONAL READING

As you read through each passage, consider answering 3 simple questions: What did I learn about God from what I read? What did I learn about myself? What is God asking me to do as a result?

Day 1: Romans 5:1-11

Day 2: Psalm 27:1 and 28:7

Day 3: Romans 12:1-2

Day 4: Romans 8:6-7 and 2 Timothy 2:25-26

THE FIGHT OF YOUR LIFE



MESSAGE NOTES & SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"SUIT UP: PART 2"

JUNE 8TH, 2014



"Suit Up" (Part 2)

June 8, 2014

By **Senior Pastor, Tom Lundeen**

(You can sign up for Pastor Tom's e-newsletter for his thoughts on various subjects at pastortom@myriversidechurch.com)

MESSAGE NOTES

Last week I stated that _____ equipped soldiers lose battles. With the "belt of truth" in place, our next piece of battle gear is:

1. The _____ of Righteousness (note *Ephesians 6:14b*)

This is powerful armor against the evil one for his character is complete _____ and unrighteousness.

God tells us if we're "in Christ"...because of Jesus' work on the _____, we've been made righteous...

"To neglect what we know to be a righteous _____ is to leave a gaping hole in our armor." (Foulkes)

...about _____ of the New Testament is "aimed at encouraging holy living"... (Wilkes)
This helps us have c _____ and confidence (Bubeck); it n _____ any sense of self-confidence.

"Breastplates are _____ protection...you will never defeat Satan without yours...How are you doing in growth towards right living? Keep fighting the little sins and small hypocrisies. Keep a short account with God by confessing your failures each day, renewing your determination to turn from the sin. Continue to make righteousness your aim, and your breastplate will maintain its _____." (Wilkes)

2. The _____ of Peace (note *Ephesians 6:15*)

Our knowledge and dependence upon the gospel gives us _____ of heart and life that comes from knowing Jesus... (note *Romans 5:1*).

We're promised _____ (note *Philippians 4:6-7*); _____ is our peace (note *Ephesians 2:13-14a*)

'Shoes of peace' provide stability so when conflict and hardship come, we don't have to _____ (note *Romans 16:20 a*).

3. The _____ of Faith (note *Ephesians 6:16*)

Note *Psalms 28:7*

This keeps us God-centered and not devil-_____.

"We must not become so conscious of Satan's _____ that we are always 'fighting the devil' instead of 'serving the Lord.'" (Bubeck)

The devil loves to start _____...

Fires can do more damage than an _____.

God can even use the adversary's flaming arrows to _____ us (note *James 1:3-4*).

4. The _____ of Salvation (note *Ephesians 6:17a*)

Salvation is a _____ (note *Psalms 27:1*).

Satan's deceptions are aimed at our _____ (note *Romans 8:6-7; II Corinthians 11:3; Colossians 1:21; II Timothy 2:25-26*).

Note *Romans 12:1-2*

5. The _____ of the Spirit (note *Ephesians 6:17b*)

Note *Acts 19:13-16*

God's Word isn't powerful because we can _____ it, but because of Who gives it power.

God's powerful Word, properly used, is an awesome weapon that can tear down the evil one's strongholds, demolish his footholds, combat his temptations, and will cause him to _____.

6. Putting on the _____ (note *Ephesians 6:18*)

Spiritual battles must be _____ with God's Word and depending on the Lord through prayer (note *Ephesians 6:10*).

To "pray in the Spirit" doesn't mean to "pray in tongues"; but to pray depending on the Spirit, in _____ with the Spirit, and under the control of the Spirit.

Prayer is to become a l _____ and not an occasional event (note *I Thessalonians 5:17*).

We're in the fight of our lives:

Each piece of armor c _____ to Jesus Himself (note *Romans 13:14 with Galatians 3:27 and Colossians 3:12-14*).

God's armor is powerfully effective when utilized by followers of Jesus who are "all-in" in following Jesus as Lord and _____ to please and serve Him with all their being.

So before taking up God's armor, we should ask:

- What's my commitment to Jesus like?
- At this stage of my spiritual journey, am I as committed to Jesus as Lord and Leader as I know how to be?
- Am I holding any area of my life away from His _____, influence, or control?
- Note *Romans 13:11-14*

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!

PRAYER TO WEAR THE ARMOR OF GOD

(Adapted from a prayer by Dr. Mark Bubeck)

Heavenly Father, I put on the armor of God with gratitude and praise. You have provided all I need to stand in victory against the evil one and his kingdom.

I confidently put on the belt of truth. Thank You that the evil one cannot stand against the bold use of truth.

Thank You for the breastplate of righteousness. I receive the righteousness that is mine through faith in Jesus Christ. I know that the adversary must retreat before the righteousness of God.

You are my peace. I embrace the peace of God that is mine through justification. I put on the shoes of peace for stability in my emotions that comes through prayer and sanctification (Philippians 4:6).

I eagerly lift up the shield of faith against all the flaming arrows the devil fires at me. Thank You for being my shield, Lord Jesus.

I realize my mind is a target for Satan's deceptions. I cover my mind with the powerful helmet of salvation.

Joyfully I lift the sword of the Spirit, Your powerful Word. I choose to live in its truth and power. Equip me to use Your Word to defend myself and also to push the evil one back, to defeat him.

Thank You for the privilege and gift of prayer. Help me to keep this armor well-oiled with prayer. I offer myself to You completely, holding nothing back, in the glorious Name of the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus.