

# social networks

Week 5 Leader Guide

## THE WIN

The group member will be able to distinguish between engaging in spiritual battle in their own power and the power of Jesus Christ by locating Christ's attributes in the biblical text and comparing them with attributes of the enemy of God, the devil.

3-5  
minutes

## SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the message this week we were encouraged to be prepared to fight against the devil by embracing a different mindset and equipping ourselves with the proper weaponry.

Did the passages covered (Ephesians 6:10-17) in the message a) confuse you b) encourage you c) make you uncomfortable d) make things clear for you?

Why? How?

3-5  
minutes

## WARM UP

If you were forced to engage in hand-to-hand combat what is the one weapon and one piece of armor that you would choose? Why?

### SAY THIS:

During the time of the Ephesians, hand-to-hand warfare was commonplace. Soldiers wore armor every day as well as carried their weapons everywhere they travelled. Preparation was critical for soldiers because, unlike today, they did not enjoy advanced warning systems, missile defense systems, detection systems, or worry about long-range missiles. Instead, if their enemy were to attack them, they would march out and meet them face-to-face. The passages covered during this week's message speak to this reality. Paul implores the Ephesians to be ready to meet the devil head on because Christ-followers will be attacked and must be ready for battle.

35-40  
minutes

## THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

### TRANSITION WITH THIS STATEMENT:

The tendency for Christ-followers is to put too much pressure on themselves because of the false assumption that somehow the devil can be repelled or defeated because of something in us. The Bible tells a different story. Let's

---

take a look at some verses that reveal the attributes of our enemy and then some verses that reveal the attributes of God, who is our source of strength and hope for victory over evil.

**DO THIS:**

Break up into groups and look up the following verses and then report your findings back to the larger group:

Group Question 1: What are some attributes of the devil?

Passages: John 8:44, 1 John 3:8, Matt 4: 1-11, Revelation 12:9, Ps. 106:37, 2 Cor. 4:4, Gal 4:8, Job 1:12; 2:6, Jude 6, James 4:7

After about 10 minutes have each group report their findings back to the larger group.

*Leader Tip:*

***There is a real enemy of God in our world, the devil (Satan).*** He seeks to destroy Christ-followers and their ability to spread the Gospel. Wayne Grudem has several points that are helpful, they are listed below:

***Satan was the originator of sin.*** Satan sinned before any human beings did so, as is evident from the fact that he (in the form of a serpent) tempted Eve (Gen.3:1-6, 2 Cor. 11:3).

***Demons oppose and try to destroy every work of God.*** Just as Satan tempted Eve to sin against God (Gen. 3:1-6), so he tried to get Jesus to sin and thus fail in his mission as Messiah (Matt. 4:1-11). Demons will try to use temptation, doubt, guilt, fear, confusion, sickness, envy, pride, slander, or any other means possible to hinder a Christian's witness and usefulness.

***Demons are limited by God's control and have limited power.*** Demons are kept in "eternal chains" (Jude 6) and can be successfully resisted by Christians through the authority that Christ gives them (James 4:7).<sup>1</sup>

**ASK THIS:**

- In your view, knowing Satan is out to make war against Christ-followers, what are the greatest dangers for ourselves/families/communities of faith?
  
- Share with the group an experience when you allowed Satan to successfully attack you. What happened? Were you aware of his mission? Did you fight back? What would you do differently?

Group Question 2: What are some attributes of God?

Passages: Ps. 24:8, Gen. 18:14, Jer. 32:27, Eph 3:20, 2 Cor. 6:18, Rev. 1:8, Matt. 19:26, Ps. 115:3, Matt. 10:29-31, Ps. 91:1-3

After about 10 minutes have groups report their finding back to the larger group.

*Leader Tip:*

Again, Wayne Grudem provides helpful background for you as you guide this discussion:

*After his resurrection, Jesus was given by God the Father far greater authority over the church and over the universe. God raised him up and "made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the which is to come; and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church" (Eph 1:20-22; Matt. 28:18, 1 Cor. 15:25). That authority over the church and over the universe will be more fully recognized by people when Jesus returns to earth in power and great glory*

---

<sup>1</sup> Grudem, Wayne, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (England: Leicester, Inter-Varsity Press, 1994) 415.

---

to reign (Matt. 26:64; 2 Thes. 1:7-10; Rev. 19:11-16). On that day he will be acknowledged as “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Rev. 19:16) and every knee shall bow to him (Phi. 2:10).<sup>2</sup>

**ASK THIS:**

- How does understanding God’s power help you to better prepare yourself for the battle Satan will bring against you/your family/community etc.?

Think through the pairings Paul lists the armor of God:

Gird your loins = Truth

Cover your chest with = Righteousness

Protect your feet = Preparation of Gospel of Peace

Deflect hard blows and arrows = Faith

Protect your ability to think and reason = Helmet of salvation

Attack the enemy = Word of God

**DO THIS:**

In your groups discuss:

- Why could Paul have paired (Truth with an ability to move around freely), (Righteousness covering the vital organs and the seat of emotions), (Gospel of Peace with feet), (Faith with a shield), (Salvation with ability to think and reason) and the (Word of God with a sword).

Report your findings back to the group.

*Leader Tip:*

*This will be a somewhat difficult activity for groups because it requires them to possess the ability to think on a deeper level. Don’t give in to the tendency to gravitate towards conventional assumptions that everyone can think deeply. You may have to help them out with a statement like “If you get stuck on a pairing, that’s okay! Move on to the next. We’re all on the same team.”*

**ASK THIS:**

- Our ability to put on the armor of God is only possible because of Jesus. How does understanding the armor of God and how each piece serves a purpose strengthen your devotion to Jesus?

**DO THIS:**

Find a partner and imagine this scenario:

A friend of yours is complacent in Christ and their devotion to Him can’t really be seen outwardly. You have begun to question whether or not he/she is a Christ-follower at all. If you had 1 opportunity to make him/her aware of the reality of spiritual warfare and the equipment God has provided through Christ, what would you say?

- Ask your partner: On a scale of 1-10 how disciplined are you to put on the full armor of God daily? How can I help you this week be more disciplined?

---

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 629.

---

## CLOSING THOUGHT

Rejoice, the Lord is King: your Lord and King adore;  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.  
Jesus, the Savior, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.  
His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.  
He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,  
And bow to his command, and fall beneath his feet:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.  
-Charles Wesley, 1746