

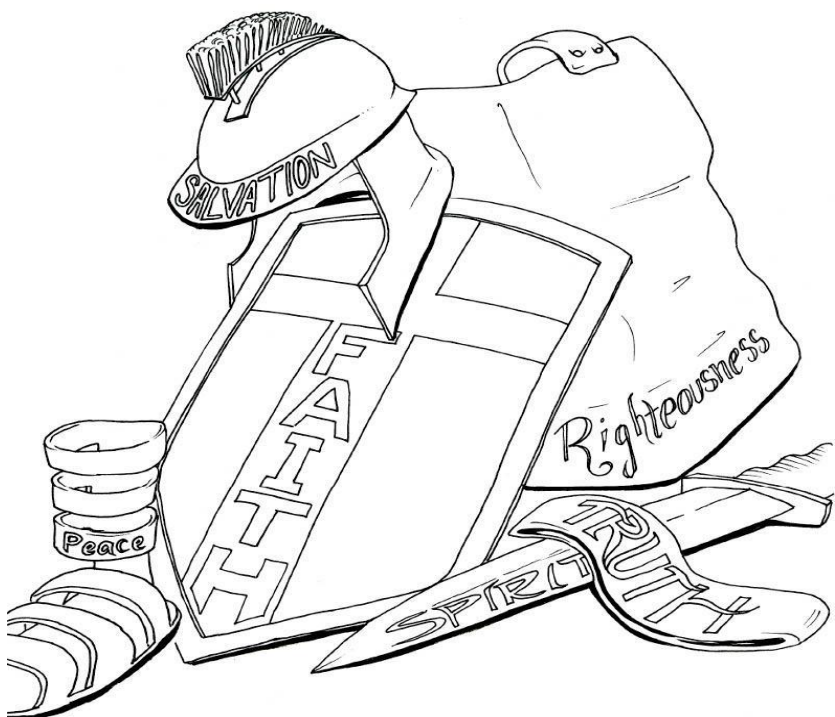


Reading through the New Testament—Week 35 September 3-9

Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

Ephesians 6 | Put On the Armor of God

God has uniquely created us to be able to appreciate and recognize imagery and using images allows our brains, hearts, and souls to engage Scripture and one another while opening pathways toward understanding and transformation. One of the ways is to take a portion of scripture and creatively depict elements or key words to help dive a little deeper into the connection between God's Word and you. Here is an image to give a try with as you read Ephesians 6:10-20 this week:



SERMON OUTLINE

Put on the Armor

Ephesians 6:10-20

Put on the _____ !

Ephesians 6:11

Battle Stances:

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|

Put on the _____ ! Ephesians 6:11

Belt of _____ Ephesians 6:14

As shoes... the _____ of _____ Ephesians 6:15






Shield of _____ Ephesians 6:16

Sword of the _____ Ephesians 6:17-18

Train _____ Brain!

New Testament in a Year—September 3-9

Ephesians/Philippians

Chapter 4  5  6  1  2 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

This week as you read, take note of the narratives or stories that stand out to you from each chapter. As you notice these stories, ask the question: What from this scripture connects with my life? Then pray: God, what are you speaking into my life through this reading?

Ephesians 4

What connects?

Prayer:

Ephesians 5

What connects?

Prayer:

Ephesians 6

What connects?

Prayer:

Philippians 1

What connects?

Prayer:

Philippians 2

What connects?

Prayer:

Blessing the World

As we think about the spiritual warfare that is being fought in our lives and around the world, it brings to mind those we love and the spiritual battles they are fighting.

This week, take a few moments and prayer for your loved ones. Especially lift up the spiritual battles they might be facing.

God, use me to be your hands and feet to _____ this week. Amen.

Belonging in Community

This week we take a look at the Armor of God. The visual of armor brings to mind a Roman soldier clad in his battle gear. As you bring that to mind, be sure to picture the other soldiers with him because Roman soldiers were not meant to fight alone. Their tactics and formations, things like linking shields together to form a wall and working together in tightly packed groups, relied on the concept of strength in numbers. This is important to the image because we often picture the Armor of God benefiting ourselves, which it does, but forget how it also helps those we "march" with.

The pieces of the armor that Paul uses are the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, feet fitted with the readiness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. (See Ephesians 6:13-20 for reference.)

- What pieces of armor are you strong in?
- How can you keep them strong?
- How do you think God may want you to use those strengths for others?
- What armor are you weak in?
- What steps do you sense God would have you take with Him to grow in areas that you are weak?
- How can you also lean into your relationships with other Christians who can aid you in these areas?

What an amazing gift the community of believers is to all of us. Read Ephesians 4:1-3. In this section Paul urges us to keep a mindset of unity. Think again of the groups of soldiers working together. There is trust and a unified purpose. We can imagine there was also a sense of getting to know each other a little deeper each battle. Your connect group is just that - a group of "soldiers" that God has brought together to do life with. And sometimes that means spiritual warfare for each other. Take some time to talk about how you would like your group to maintain unity, build trust, and continue to listen to God for direction and guidance.