

**Key Scripture**

*Ephesians 6:10-12 - A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.*

*Ephesians 6:13-18 - Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.*

*<sup>14</sup>Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. <sup>15</sup>For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. <sup>17</sup>Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.*

**Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.**

- What do you think of when you hear the term spiritual warfare? How do you react? Does it confuse you, scare you, excite you?
- Have you ever started fighting back against someone or something, only to realize later that you were fighting the wrong fight? What did you do about it?

**Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.**

- How do we tap into God's mighty power in a practical sense? Pastor Lane said we have to engage in Spiritual disciplines (Bible reading, prayer, etc.) and step out and rely of God's power. What does that look like in day-to-day life?
- We have to put on the whole armor of God for it to do us any good. How do we put them on in a practical sense? What happens if we only put on some of the armor instead of all?
- When we learn to identify the right opponent, how does that change how we see people and how we treat people that we would otherwise normally view as adversarial?

**Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.**

- Pastor Lane said in the message, "If I strengthen myself in the Lord and put on the whole armor of God, but then go fight the wrong battle I still lose, but not only me, but my family loses, the church loses, those I am called to reach lose. If the church fights the wrong fight, the world loses." Do you agree or disagree? What do we need to do about it?
- Can you think of a time when you saw God do the impossible for you as you fought in spirit for a situation you were facing? How did the offensive weapons of the Bible and prayer in the Spirit affect the situation?
- What would happen if the church was more concerned about fighting against the strongholds and spiritual evil in the world than they are about identifying and blaming individuals? If we were more concerned with connecting people to their creator than we are about correcting their behavior, what would happen?

**Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.**

*Father, help me to fight the right fight. Help me to engage in the battle in the Spirit and not get sidetracked by lesser battles. Teach me to fight on my knees for my family, my church, my friends, even my city and state. In Jesus' name, amen.*