

Small Group Guide

Based on Ephesians 6: Relationships, Armor, and the Christian Walk

Overview

This week's message concluded the book of Ephesians, focusing on three major areas: family relationships (parents and children), workplace relationships (employers and employees), and the spiritual warfare every believer faces. The overarching theme is that genuine faith in Jesus Christ should visibly transform every area of our daily lives.

Key Takeaways

1. Children are called to obey and honor their parents, and this principle extends into adulthood through respectful, mature relationships.
2. Fathers carry a specific responsibility to lead their homes with encouragement and Christ-like example rather than harshness or provocation.
3. Believers in the workplace are called to work as unto the Lord, not merely to please an employer or avoid consequences.
4. Every person who claims the name of Jesus Christ is engaged in a spiritual battle, whether they recognize it or not.
5. The armor of God is not our own armor. It belongs to Christ, and we are invited to put it on. Each piece addresses a real vulnerability in the life of a believer.
6. Prayer is not a last resort. It is the active, ongoing communication that sustains us in the battle.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question (to get the conversation started)

- When you think about the different relationships in your life right now, which one feels the most challenging to navigate as a Christian? Why?

On Children and Parents (Ephesians 6:1-4)

- The message described honoring parents as something that continues into adulthood, even when the relationship is imperfect or complicated. What does honoring a parent look like practically for an adult child?
- Pastor Jerry mentioned that fathers specifically are addressed in verse 4 and challenged not to provoke their children to wrath. Why do you think the tone and approach of a father carries so much weight in a household?
- Deuteronomy 6:6-9 describes a life where the words of God are woven into every part of the day, from sitting at home to walking, from waking to sleeping. How realistic does that look in your home? What would need to change?
- Pastor Jerry stated, "Our full-time job as fathers is much more important than our careers." How do you respond to that statement? Does it challenge you, encourage you, or both?

On Work and the Workplace (Ephesians 6:5-9)

- The sermon pointed to Joseph as the ultimate example of a godly employee, someone who was treated unfairly and yet remained faithful until God promoted him. What makes that kind of faithfulness so difficult to maintain in our own work situations?
- The pastor drew a contrast between David and Joseph. David's failure gave the enemies of God reason to blaspheme. Have you ever seen that dynamic play out, where a believer's behavior at work caused others to speak negatively about Christianity?
- The phrase "as unto the Lord" appears several times in this passage. How does that perspective actually change the way you approach your work on a Monday morning?

- The sermon also addressed employers, noting that those in authority are not to operate through threats and intimidation. If you are in a leadership role at work, what does servant leadership look like in a practical, day-to-day sense?

On Spiritual Warfare (Ephesians 6:10-18)

- Pastor Jerry said, "Before we knew Christ, we were on the side of Satan." That is a strong statement. How does understanding where we came from change the way we view the spiritual battle we are now in?
- The sermon described the shield of faith this way: "When I read the word of God and I put my trust and hope and faith in it, it is going to protect me from those fiery darts." Can you share a time when Scripture specifically protected you from a lie you were tempted to believe?
- The pastor noted that what tempts one person may not tempt another, and where one person has found victory, another may still be struggling. How does that reality shape the way we should treat each other in the body of Christ?
- Paul wrote this letter from prison, chained to a guard, yet he still called himself an ambassador of the gospel. How does his situation challenge the excuses we sometimes make for not sharing our faith?

Closing Reflection

- The sermon closed with this thought: "No matter where our battle lies in our lives, we have to give God the room to operate in those battles." Is there an area of your life right now where you have been trying to solve the problem on your own rather than giving God room to work?

Practical Applications

This Week, Choose One:

1. **In Your Family:** Identify one specific way you can encourage rather than provoke someone in your household. Write it down and follow through on it before the next group meeting.

2. **In Your Workplace:** For one full week, approach every task at work with the deliberate thought, "I am doing this as unto the Lord." At the end of the week, reflect on whether that perspective changed anything about your attitude or your effort.
3. **In Your Spiritual Life:** Pick one piece of the armor of God from Ephesians 6:14-17 and spend time this week studying what that piece means and where you feel most vulnerable without it. Bring what you discover back to the group.
4. **In Prayer:** Move beyond routine or repetitive prayer this week. Set aside time for what the pastor called intense, reaching prayer, the kind where you are bringing a real burden before God and asking him specifically to move.
5. **In Your Relationships:** If there is an estranged or strained relationship with a parent or adult child in your life, take one small step toward honoring that relationship this week. It does not need to resolve everything. It just needs to be a step.

Scripture references: Ephesians 6:1-24, Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Proverbs 1:8, Psalm 139:19-24, 2 Samuel 12:14, Genesis 37-50, Ephesians 1:19-23, Ephesians 2:1-6