

Small Group Discipleship Guide

Ice Breaker

Ephesus was the “chief” city in all of Asia Minor. The Center of commerce; communication; government; culture. It’s like putting NYC together with Washington DC with LA. It connected the known East and the West. Ephesus was also the religious hub of the world in the First Century. That’s where the Temple of Artemis was located and she was thought to possess cosmic (other-worldly) power. She was willing to dispense her power through magic and amulets to those who worshipped her. Who or what do you think is most influencing our culture today?

Scripture Reading

Have someone read **Ephesians 6:10–13** aloud:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.”

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

1. Why is it so important that Paul (and the Holy Spirit) decided to put this segment at the end of the epistle to the Ephesians?
2. What are the keys to “putting on” the Armor of God?
3. Have you ever been tempted to “put on” elements of power and/or magic from sources other than God? If you’re willing to be vulnerable, please talk about what happened and what that might have been like for you?

Going Deeper

4. How is the Armor of God a relational set of tools that we have at our disposal?
5. What are some ways you have benefitted from this relational nature of the Armor of God?

6. How is it that we have such a difficult time recognizing the “schemes of the devil”?
 7. What is the main target of the devil’s schemes in your life? *(see the list at the bottom of this page if you need ideas)*
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Personal Reflection (3 minutes, quietly)

Read this slowly and sit with it:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” — Ephesians 6:10-11

Ask yourself: - Where, in my life, do I most need the strength and might of the Lord to empower me? - What aspects of the Armor of God are you lacking, or need to be strengthened?

Christian Ethical Behavior according to Ephesians:

- a. live worthy of our calling
- b. be humble and gentle
- c. be patient
- d. bear with one another in love
- e. live in unity with one another
- f. live in peace with one another
- g. build one another up
- h. speak the truth in Love
- i. grow into maturity
- j. live with a regenerated spirit
- k. live as new people in righteousness, holiness and truth
- l. clean up our language
- m. be kind to one another
- n. imitate Christ
- o. be compassionate and forgiving
- p. give thanks in all things
- q. walk as children of light
- r. please the Lord in all we do
- s. submit to one another in Love
- t. respectfully submit to your husband
- u. sacrificially love your wife
- v. children to obey parents
- w. parents to instruct children in the ways of the Lord
- x. work for our bosses as we would for the Lord
- y. work with good attitudes (even if we don’t ‘love’ our jobs)
- z. put on the full armor of God.