



Armor of God – Stand Firm

BEFORE YOU MEET

Encourage group members to read Ephesians 6:10-20 and 1 Samuel 17 on their own before gathering. Come ready to share honestly about where you feel spiritually worn down or disengaged.

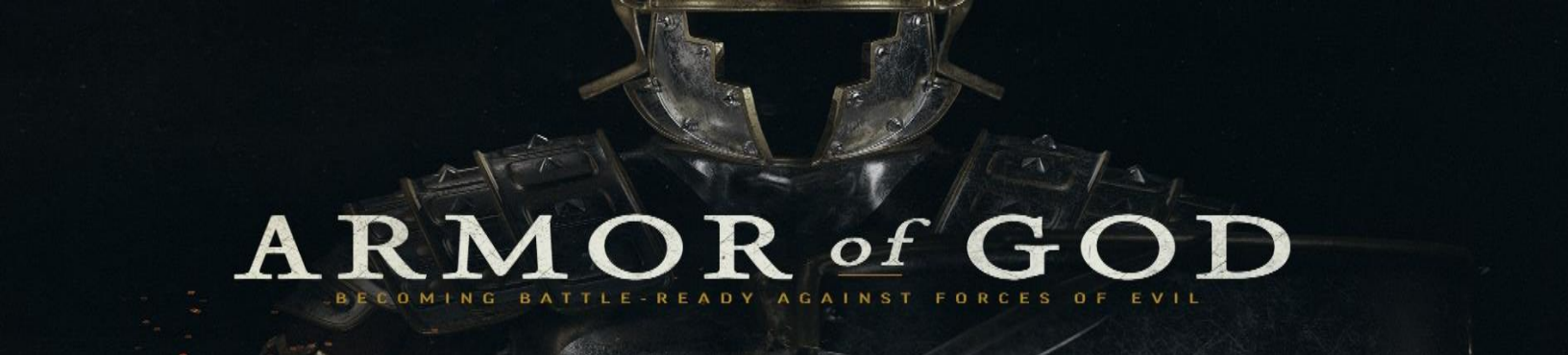
- Think of a time you felt caught off guard by something difficult — a conflict, a season of struggle, a temptation you did not see coming. How did you respond in the moment?
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Work through as many of these as time allows. Do not feel pressure to cover every question.

Getting Into the Word

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-12 together as a group. What stands out to you most about how Paul describes the nature of the spiritual battle? Does anything surprise you?
2. In Isaiah 14, the prophet describes Satan's fall and the pride behind it. In Genesis 3, Satan tempts Eve with the same desire he himself had — to be like God. What does it tell us about the enemy that his primary tool of temptation is pride and self-sufficiency?
3. Paul tells believers to "stand firm" and to "stand your ground" multiple times in this passage. What do you think it looks like practically to stand firm rather than retreat in a season of spiritual attack?



ARMOR *of* GOD

BECOMING BATTLE-READY AGAINST FORCES OF EVIL

Reflecting on the Sermon

4. Dave mentioned that a Barna Group survey found fewer believers than ever actually believe in the devil. Why do you think that is? What are the consequences of that mindset for someone's spiritual life?
5. He said, "The only way to lose is to not fight." Do you agree with that? What does it look like in everyday life to actively engage in the spiritual battle rather than ignore it or hope it goes away?
6. Dave shared that during his sabbatical, isolation led to some of the most intense spiritual attacks he had experienced in years. Have you ever noticed a connection between isolation and increased spiritual struggle in your own life? What does that tell us about the importance of community?
7. The story of David and Goliath shows two very different mindsets — the Israelite army that showed up looking the part but was paralyzed by fear, and David who ran toward the giant because he was confident in God's track record. Which mindset do you most identify with right now, and why?
8. Dave pointed out that when the Israelites finally saw victory, their mindset changed immediately and they charged the hill. What would it look like for your group, your family, or your own life if you truly believed victory was already secured?



Going Deeper

9. The sermon described Satan's tactics as filling our minds with fear, guilt, shame, worry, condemnation, and doubt. Which of those do you find yourself most vulnerable to? How has that affected your relationship with God or with others?
- 10.1 John 4:4 says the one who is in believers is greater than the one who is in the world. If that is genuinely true, what is one area of your life where you have been acting as though it is not?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or two of these to commit to before your group meets again:

- Engage instead of retreat. Identify one area where you have been spiritually passive — a habit, a relationship, a fear, a silence — and take one concrete step this week to engage rather than avoid it.
 - Protect your mind. Pay attention this week to the thoughts that feel like attacks — shame, fear, doubt, condemnation. When you notice them, practice naming them out loud and countering them with a truth from Scripture.
 - Stay connected. Isolation increases vulnerability. Reach out to one person in your group or church community this week for a real conversation about how you are actually doing spiritually.
 - Pray specifically against the enemy's schemes. Use Ephesians 6:10-20 as a framework for prayer this week. Pray through each piece of armor as it applies to your current season of life.
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