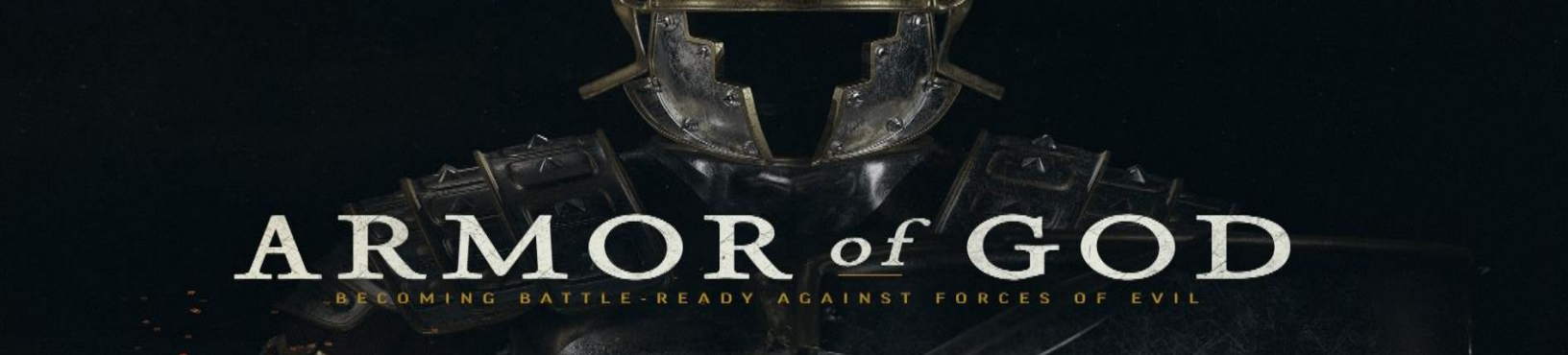


A graphic featuring a metallic, battle-worn helmet at the top center. Below it, the words "ARMOR of GOD" are written in a large, serif font. The word "of" is smaller and in a script font. Below the main title, the phrase "BECOMING BATTLE-READY AGAINST FORCES OF EVIL" is written in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a battlefield or a dark, industrial setting.

ARMOR *of* GOD

BECOMING BATTLE-READY AGAINST FORCES OF EVIL

Armor of God – Gospel of Peace

Discussion Questions

1. The message opened with John Wooden's famous first practice -- teaching his players how to properly put on their socks and shoes. What is something in your own life where the basics turned out to be more important than you initially realized?
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Digging into the Message:

2. Dave described two images of war: the chaos of D-Day and the celebration of V-E Day. How does thinking about spiritual warfare from the perspective of victory and celebration -- rather than fear and chaos -- change the way you approach your daily life?
 3. Ephesians 2:13-14 describes Jesus as our peace, both restoring our relationship with God and breaking down walls of division between people. Which of these two dimensions of peace is harder for you to personally live out, and why?
 4. Dave asked three questions: Has the gospel reached your head? Has it reached your heart? Has it reached your feet? Where do you honestly find yourself right now in that progression?
 5. Isaiah 52 paints a picture of messengers running from the battlefield to announce victory, and the whole city responding with joy and song. In what ways does that image describe what the church is supposed to be doing in the world?
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6. Dave offered three ways to pursue uncommon unity:

- Honor everyone, even those who are very different from you
- Pursue relationships with people who are not like you
- Walk in forgiveness consistently

Which of these three feels most challenging to you personally right now? What is one specific step you could take this week to act on it?

- 7. Jesus was known as a friend of sinners and regularly spent time with people that others avoided. Who in your life or community might God be calling you to pursue a relationship with -- someone you might naturally avoid or overlook?**
- 8. The message compared Christians who are not living out the gospel to toddlers who can not find their shoes -- unable to walk out what they believe. What are some habits, attitudes, or fears that might be keeping your gospel "shoes" off your feet?**

Practical Applications for the Week

Individually:

- Spend time this week reflecting honestly on whether the gospel has moved from your head to your heart to your feet. Journal about one area of your life where you sense God calling you to live out the peace of the gospel more fully.



ARMOR *of* GOD

BECOMING BATTLE-READY AGAINST FORCES OF EVIL

In Your Relationships:

- **Identify one person in your life with whom you have tension or division. Commit to one concrete act of honor or forgiveness toward that person this week, not because they deserve it, but because the gospel compels it.**

As a Group:

- **Consider how your small group itself reflects uncommon unity. Are you all very similar in background, age, or perspective? Discuss together how your group might intentionally pursue someone or a type of person who is not already represented in your circle.**

In Prayer:

- **Pray specifically this week for the peace of God to guard your heart and mind, and for the courage to carry that peace into at least one difficult relationship or situation.**
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