



Ephesians 6:10-20 10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the

gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Icebreaker

Have you ever worn a uniform of any kind? Tell the group about it.

Conversation Starters

1. When you think of armor, do you think of it being for defense or offense? Why would a person think about putting on the armor of God? What is the purpose and does it seem like a strange analogy for you?
2. The words **stand, stand** your ground and **stand firm** are repeated several times in Ephesians. Have you ever considered the way you "stand" being connected to your faith? What is your power stance?
3. Do you feel like you live with the reality/understanding that we are in a spiritual battle with evil and the 'schemes of the devil'? In what ways have you seen that on display in our world or in your own life? What does it mean that God is so committed to our free will, our ability to choose to love and follow Jesus or go their own way?
4. Scripture makes it clear that God and the devil are not on the same footing (Colossians 1:16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.)
 - a. What might be the danger of underestimating the power of evil?
 - b. What might be the danger of overestimating the power of evil?
5. Honest confession and humble surrender are courageous steps that release God's power and grace in our lives. Are there patterns in your life that you would like to have freedom or forgiveness? What does the release of God's power and grace actually look like to you or how do you imagine it? Have you experienced it?
6. What role has prayer played as you deal with the 'struggles' of this life? How could you make prayer more a part of your life and the life of this group?