

## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

# KINGDOM COME — SPIRITUAL WARFARE BASICS

Luke 4:1-13

Pastor Miles McPherson – April 6, 2014

In John 8:36, Jesus said, “*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*” When you trust in Jesus for your salvation, you are set free! Not only are your sins forgiven, sin and Satan no longer have any power or authority over you. But since he is cunning and crafty, Satan often deceives believers and leads them astray.

Over this past month, we’ve learned that for every truth of God, Satan has a lie to deceive us with; but a key to walking in victory is to renounce the lies and embrace the truth as found in God’s Word. In this study we’ll look at some foundational principles of being prepared and victorious in the spiritual battle.

## MEMORY VERSE

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*  
(James 4:7-8)

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

What is an area that you have felt a spiritual attack or oppression in lately?

## STUDY QUESTIONS

→ **Read Ephesians 6:10-18**

Why does Paul begin this section with the command to be strong in the Lord?

How does one obey that command?

Why do we need the armor of God?



What do you think the schemes of the devil include?

What does each piece of the armor represent?

- Belt of truth:
- Breastplate of righteousness:
- Shoes / gospel of peace:
- Shield of faith:
- Helmet of salvation:
- Sword of the Spirit:

Paul adds “praying at all times in the Spirit...” to the end of the list of the armor. How does that fit into the passage? Is prayer a strategic part of our spiritual warfare?

**Application:**

**Discuss:** What are some situations that you’ve faced lately that you needed spiritual armor to take a stand against the schemes of the devil?

**NOTE:** The Bible tells us to resist the devil and to stand firm against his schemes. But when it comes to temptation, we’re told to flee! (see 1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Corinthians 10:14; 1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22)

**Prayer:** Break up into groups of 3 or 4 and pray Ephesians 6:10-18 for each other. If you are facing a specific area of spiritual battle, share the battle with your prayer cluster and have them pray over you.

## GROUP ACTIVITY

1. Read through the Armor of God supplement (below) daily, praying through and “putting on” each part as you begin that day. Look up the additional verses, one for each day of the coming week.
2. Memorize James 4:7-8 and put it into practice when you encounter spiritual opposition this week.





## ***The Armor of God, Ephesians 6:10-18<sup>1</sup>***

### ***Belt of Truth, verse 14***

*The belt holds the other pieces together so that there is no loose or clanging armor. John 8:32. Putting on the Belt of Truth means that we*

- *make no compromises with the truth.*
- *speak words of life.*
- *move in authority.*

### ***Breastplate of Righteousness, verse 14***

*The breastplate covers the heart. 1 John 3:21. Putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness means that we*

- *live free of condemnation.*
- *approach the enemy under the covering of the blood of Jesus.*
- *move in confidence.*

### ***Shoes of Peace, verse 15***

*Shoes protect our feet on the battlefield. Joshua 1:3. Putting on the Shoes of Peace means that we*

- *live in unity with the Holy Spirit and people.*
- *commit to God's ways and purposes.*
- *confidently take what the enemy has stolen.*

### ***Shield of Faith, verse 16***

*The shield covers the rest of the armor. Romans 10:17. Putting on the Shield of Faith means that we*

- *simply trust in God.*
- *consume all the fiery arrows of the enemy.*
- *train ourselves with the Word of God.*

### ***Helmet of Salvation, verse 17***

*The helmet protects the mind, which is the battlefield. Hebrews 9:14. Putting on the Helmet of Salvation means that we*

- *have received salvation, which includes eternal life, deliverance, and healing through the blood of Jesus.*
- *guard our minds from lies and confusion.*
- *have our consciences cleansed by the blood of Jesus.*

### ***Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, verse 18***

*The sword in this armor is a short double-edged sword used for hand-to-hand combat and for removing the arrows of the enemy. Ephesians 5:26. Using the Sword of the Spirit means that we*

- *have the Word of God in our hearts.*
- *meet every attack of the enemy with the God's Word.*
- *use the Word of God to cleanse us from the wounds inflicted by the enemy.*

### ***Praying in the Spirit, verse 18***

*Praying in the Spirit is a powerful weapon of warfare. It's praying God's perfect will. Romans 8:26*

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<sup>1</sup> Living in Freedom Everyday Workbook, p60. Church of the Highlands

