

Life Group Homework

For the week of October 21, 2018

MY STORY

1. What is your favorite song of all time?
2. What was your takeaway from last week's study?

QUICK REVIEW

3. Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, what caught your attention?

DIGGING DEEPER

Ephesians 6:10-16 (ESV)

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

4. After the shoes what is the next piece of armor in the passage?
5. According to the passage, what is the purpose of the Shield?
6. What are some examples of the darts the evil one sends our way?

A note on a Roman shield From *Ephesians: An Introduction and Commentary*:

In New Testament times darts were often made with tow dipped in pitch and then set on fire, and the wooden shield needed to be covered with leather so as to quench them quickly. The 'wiles of the devil' (v. 11) Paul knew to include such *flaming darts*, people's arrow tongues, the shafts of impurity, selfishness, doubt, fear, disappointment, that are planned by the enemy to burn and destroy. The apostle knew that only faith's reliance on God could *quench* and deflect such weapons whenever they were hurled at the Christian. It is of interest also to recall that the Romans had a system of locking these large shields together for their corporate defense against their enemies and for attack.

7. How does the imagery from the above commentary help you understand the purpose of the shield?

8. Could the system the Romans had of interlocking their shields be compared to being in community in the church? If so, how?
9. How do the shield of faith, the shoes of the gospel of peace, the breastplate of righteousness, and the belt of truth work together?

TAKING IT HOME

Matthew 6:25-30 (NLT)

²⁵“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? ²⁷Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

²⁸“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, ²⁹yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. ³⁰And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?”

10. In the above passage, Jesus is teaching the crowd about worry and faith. What are some of the things He tells us not to worry about?
11. Do you think this principle of trusting God goes further than just food and clothing. If so, how?
12. Where does Jesus tell us to look to see how God will provide for His people?

Jesus and Paul are teaching a beautiful and simple truth and it's this: worry and faith cannot occupy the same space in our minds. If I am worrying I am not trusting, and if I am trusting I am not worried. I can either pick up worry and hold it or I can put it down and pick up the shield of faith. I can't do both!

13. What is one area in your life that you need to set down worry and pick up the shield of faith?

CHAIR TIME TOOL

14. Is there worry that you need to put down and trade for the shield of Faith?
15. Read Ephesians 6 and think about each piece of the armor we have studied so far. Ask God to reveal areas that you need to grow in.

FAMILY RESOURCES

16. How can we use the shield of faith with our families?
17. Has your “concern” over your family turned into outright worry for your loved ones?
18. What do you need to do to surrender your family and trust God with them?

CHOSEN

TO LIVE STRONG

LEARNING HOW TO WIN LIFE'S BATTLES

October 21, 2018 | Dr. John Jackson (9:15 & 11:30 am) | Pastor Will Race (6 pm)

OUR GOAL! “...*able to stand firm...*”

(Every bit of ground that we have freely given to God in our hearts)

One BIG THOUGHT: We have a lot to lose.

Ephesians 6:10-16

“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

*¹³ Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴ Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. ¹⁵ For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶ **In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil.”***

The Deception - Putting my trust in God is risky...I can't really trust Him.

Truth: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. ⁶ Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take. “ Proverbs 3:5-6

The Shield of Faith (emphasis on trust):

Matthew 6:19-34 (faith for every day)

- “Why do you have so little faith?”

Matthew 14:22-36 (the big audacious “You did what?” step of faith God called you to do)

- “Why did you doubt me?”

Challenge:

- Will you place your trust in Christ for your every day?
- Is there a big audacious step of faith God is calling you to? What is it? What can you do right now to take a step?