

# Life Group Homework

For the week of November 4, 2018

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## MY STORY

1. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
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 6:10-20 (ESV)

*<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup>and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup>and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup>praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup>and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak*

4. For you personally, what is the most important piece of armor in this passage?
5. What are the connecting ideas among all these pieces of armor?
6. What instructions does Paul give in verses 18-19?
7. What is the connection between prayer and the Armor of God?

### A Note from the *Life Application New Testament Commentary* on verses 18-19

"This verse, although not naming another "weapon" in the believer's armor, does continue the thought of 6:17. As we take the sword of the Spirit, God's word, we must also **pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit**. Praying in the Spirit means that the Spirit helps us when we pray (Romans 8:26); the Spirit prays on our behalf (Romans 8:27); the Spirit makes God accessible (Ephesians 2:18); the Spirit gives us confidence when we pray

(Romans 8:15–16; Galatians 4:6). He inspires and guides us when we pray. He helps us communicate with God and also brings God's response to us.

Paul was not calling prayer a weapon; instead, he was giving the how-to's for taking up the armor described in the previous verses. We must not underestimate Satan's forces. He will strike in different ways at different people; thus, we need to pray "all kinds" of prayers, allowing for all kinds of requests. Satan will attack at various times, but he will always be attacking someone. Satan will attack when we least expect it, so we need to **stay alert** to prayer needs when they arise. Satan will rarely let up if he thinks he can win the battle, so believers must **be persistent** in praying, no matter how long it takes. No believer is exempt from being Satan's target—Satan demands battle against his enemies (believers). Thus **all Christians everywhere** need our prayer support."

## TAKING IT HOME

This past Sunday Pastor Cheryl talked about leaving a legacy for generations to come.

8. What is the legacy of your family?
9. What do you want your legacy to be?
10. What are you doing to stay the course and leave a legacy? Is there anything you need to start or stop doing?

## CHAIR TIME TOOL

11. Read Ephesians 6 again and pray over the following topics.
12. Pray through the whole armor of God, asking God to equip you with each piece.
13. Pray and ask God for a vision for your legacy and for others to discover theirs as well.

## FAMILY RESOURCES

14. What do you want your legacy to be for your family?
15. What steps can you take to connect closer to Jesus so He can develop your legacy?
16. We were never meant to do life by ourselves. Reach out this week to someone in your group or a close friend and talk with them about this idea of legacy and pray for one another.

# CHOSEN

TO LIVE STRONG

LEARNING HOW TO WIN LIFE'S BATTLES

November 4, 2018 | PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY

## Ephesians 6:10-20 (NLT)

*"...Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. <sup>15</sup> For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. <sup>17</sup> Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. <sup>19</sup> And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. <sup>20</sup> I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should."*

**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. We have a lot to GAIN!

You Pray

Pray for those close to you.

Pray for His church.

Pray for those yet found.

- 916 Commitment
- My 5

Moving past shallow:

- How are you?
- How is your family?
- How are your kids?
- How are things for you at work?
- How can I pray best for you?

**The deception:** God won't help me in any meaningful way.

**Truth:** God is aching to help you.

**Challenge:**

- Choose to stand on the truth that God is aching to help you.
- Pick up the challenge to Pray (Step before God) Chair Time... 15 minutes a day.