

# THE SHIELD OF FAITH

## EPHESIANS 6:16 CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – AUGUST 10, 2025

### SCRIPTURE READING

*Ephesians 6:10-16*

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 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. 13 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. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

### ICE BREAKER QUESTION

When someone or something is attacking you, what do you do and behind what do you hide?

### SERMON RECAP

Spiritually speaking, the flaming arrows hurled at us by Satan reflect spiritual attacks. They include things like:

Temptation	Accusation	Self-Destructive Thoughts	Doubt
Worry	Persecution	Distraction	

Satan’s main goal is to diminish the glory of God on earth and to attack God’s reputation in the hearts and minds of the very people made in God’s image. The ultimate target of every spiritual attack is what we think and feel about God. Satan tries to get you to stop trusting God. Flaming arrows are anything that tempts you to stop trusting God.

When you use the “shield of faith,” you make a day-by-day decision to trust God, and you:

- Trust God’s character,
- Trust God’s plans,
- Trust God’s promises, and
- Trust God’s power.

It’s not about the strength of your faith. It’s about the strength of the One in whom you put your faith.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Observation: What does the passage say?**

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-16 aloud as a group and focus on Ephesians 6:16. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
  - In what general and specific circumstances do you need to have faith?
  - How can someone take up the shield of faith?
  - What do the flaming arrows look and feel like to you?
  - How would you summarize Ephesians 6:16?

**Interpretation: What does the passage mean?**

1. Read Psalm 27:13 and Lamentations 3:22-26
  - Where does your confidence live?
  - What does it mean that the Lord’s compassions never fail?
  - Why must we wait on the Lord, and how can the shield help our trust in God’s character?
2. Read Matthew 6:25-33
  - From where does anxiety come?



- What is our value to the Father?
  - How does seeking God's kingdom and His righteousness first, enhance our trust in God's plans?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 1:20, Isaiah 43:1-3, and Psalm 84:10-12
    - How do all our promises find their "Yes" and "Amen" in Christ?
    - How does our redemption shield us from fear?
    - How do promises fulfilled here amplify the ultimate promise of heaven, and shield God's promises?
  4. Read Jeremiah 32:17 and Ephesians 3:20-21
    1. How is God's power worthy of our faith and trust?
    1. How is God's power working in us?
    1. How is God's power evident through His Church, and how does that shield our trust in His power?

***Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?***

1. Trust God's character!
  - What doubts do you have about God or His Word?
  - Where or how is Satan undermining your trust in God?
  - What can you do to strengthen your faith in God's character?
  - How can your Church Group help you to align closer with God's character?
2. Trust God's plans!
  - What is God's plan for YOUR life?
  - Where do you have anxiety about your life, or about the direction of your life?
  - How are you showing the world the value that you are to God?
  - How does your Church Group seek God's kingdom and demonstrate trust in God's plans?
3. Trust God's promises!
  - What promises has Christ already fulfilled for you?
  - What promises is Christ fulfilling in you?
  - What promises is Christ fulfilling through you?
  - How is your Church Group faithfully living and sharing God's promises with others?
4. Trust God's power!
  - What has God's power done for you?
  - What do you need God's power to do for you now or in the future?
  - How does God's power help you to deflect or defeat Satan's flaming arrows?
  - How can your Church Group use the shield of faith this week, in day-to-day decisions, to trust God's character, His plans, His promises, and His power?