

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

EPHESIANS 6:17

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – AUGUST 24, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 6:10-17

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; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

The Scriptures tell us we are continuously in a spiritual war. What is your instinctive response to the idea of constantly being in this spiritual war?

SERMON RECAP

All of mankind, whether believers and non-believers, are in an on-going spiritual war.

- The devil and his demons are always actively working to destroy your life. (Ephesians 6:10-20)
- They work by keeping you from hearing, believing, and obeying God's Word. (Mark 4:1-20, Matthew 4:1-11)

We don't have the Bible so that we can defeat the devil. We have the Bible to remind us that the devil has been defeated. (1 John 4:4, Isaiah 54:17, James 4:7)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-17 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.
 - Compare the spiritual armaments identified in this passage. In what ways are they alike?
 - Contrast the spiritual armaments identified in this passage. In what ways do they differ?
 - In context of the book of Ephesians, Who is the source of these armaments? (Eph 1:2-3)
2. How would you explain or summarize today's passage in your own words?
3. What stands out to you most as you read and consider today's passage?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. How is Satan specifically tempting you right now to sin, doubt, worry, or fear?
 - What are the ways Satan is attacking you?
 - How is he tempting you to sin right now?
 - What are the doubts and/or questions he is putting in your mind right now, just like he has been doing since Genesis 3?
 - What are the things he is tempting you to worry about, to not trust God with, or to fear?
2. How can the Word of God function as a sword, an offensive weapon, in your ongoing spiritual war?
3. Do you have 'fighter verses' memorized to help you battle against common 'arrows' of the evil one? Below is a list of several arrows Pastor Mike mentioned in a recent sermon. As a group (or split up, guys and girls), identify 2-3 verses you could lean on to help you fight against the following arrows:
 - Temptation/lust
 - Fear/worry
 - Discouragement



- Self-destructive thoughts
 - Doubt
 - Distraction
4. Your victory over Satan depends on your intimacy with Scripture. What verses from God's Word will you begin memorizing and meditating on to fight your temptations?
 5. This week, how will you commit to following the M-A-P-S process every morning? How can your group help you accomplish this goal? As a reminder the M-A-P-S acronym represents the following:
 - M – Meditate on and memorize God's Word.
 - A – Apply it.
 - P – Pray through it.
 - S – Look for opportunities to share it with others.
 6. As you close your group time, consider reading Psalm 19:7-14, and allowing those verses to guide a time of prayer, asking the Lord to deepen each person's desire to know God through his word and to use it effectively in the spiritual battle.

LEADER NOTES

Church-wide Prayer Gathering | Save the date for Friday, September 19th when all locations will gather at the Tysons location for a church-wide prayer gathering where we'll kick off the year on our knees together.

Please Update Your Group Rosters | As we head into the fall, please make sure your group's roster is accurate and up to date. If you're not sure how to update your roster, please reach out to a staff member at your location for specific instructions on how to do that.