

THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

EPHESIANS 6:15

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - AUGUST 3, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 6:10-15

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.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

When you hear the word 'peace', what thoughts come to mind? And, when you hear the phrase 'peace with God', what comes to mind?

SERMON RECAP

The gospel of peace is the good news that the peace we were made for has been accomplished by Jesus on the cross. There is a peace from God that flows from that more fundamental peace with God, and it works its way out into every aspect of our lives.

- Peace within (i.e., psychological peace), where we learn to trust God and relax under His care and control.
- Peace with others (i.e., relational peace), which transforms the way we see and interact with other people, especially in this counter-cultural community called "the body of Christ", the church.
- Peace in all of creation (i.e., physical peace; worldwide peace), when the universe itself is fully restored to God's perfect design.

All this peace flows from peace with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-15 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share observations about it.
 1. What phrases, keywords, or concepts are repeated in this passage?
 2. What commands does this passage contain? (Eph 6:10, 11, 13, 14)
 3. In Eph 6:10, what does the text identify as the believer's enablement for obeying its command?
 4. In Eph 6:11-12, what does the text identify as the reasons for obeying its command?
 5. In Eph 6:13, what does the text identify as the reason for obeying its command?
 6. In Eph 6:14, what does the text identify as the believer's equipping for obeying its command?
2. How would you explain or summarize today's passage in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Read John 14:6, 1 Corinthians 1:30, and Ephesians 2:13-14. Reflecting on the armaments considered thus far (i.e., the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, and the readiness of gospel of peace), to what (or Whom) might these armaments indirectly refer? How might this insight contribute to your understanding of this passage's meaning?
2. What stands out to you most as you read and consider today's passage?

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

1. Read Psalm 51:5, Romans 5:12, Ephesians 2:1-3, and 1 John 1:8. We are all born into a hostile relationship with God because of sin. How explicit is your recognition of your sin - both your sinful nature and your sinful acts? How deeply are you aware of it? And, how does this recognition and awareness affect you (e.g., your faith, thoughts, decisions, actions)?



2. As sinful human beings, hostility toward God is our default mode. That hostility is demonstrated when (i) we reject God (whether partially or entirely); and (ii) we resent God (e.g., because we cannot reconcile the God of the Bible with the idea of God that makes the most sense to us).
 - In what ways are you rejecting God's sovereignty and Lordship over every aspect of your life? How does this rejection affect your relationship with the Lord?
 - What deep-seated resentments toward God are you quietly harboring? How do these resentments stand up in the light of God's Truth?
3. Read Isaiah 53:3-5, Acts 4:12, John 3:16-17, John 6:28-29, and cf. Ephesians 2:14. Who is the sole basis of one's peace with God?
4. Ephesians 6:15 identifies the readiness given by the gospel of peace. This is, in part, a reference to one's preparation or equipping for engagement in the Lord's spiritual war. What is your level of readiness?
 - How well do you know the gospel? How might you pursue a deeper understanding of the content, nature, and implications of the peace with God made available through Jesus?
 - How well do you trust the gospel? On whom are you relying as your source of strength? How might you increasingly trust the gospel, confidently relying on and living in the peace with God made available through Jesus? (cf. Psalm 34:8-10)
 - How well do you share the gospel? How might your knowledge of and trust in the peace with God made available through Jesus reshape how you share the gospel with others?
5. To exercise faith, what new, courageous steps might you take this week in response to today's passage and your (and your Church Group's) related reflections? As you move forward with these steps, what faithful brother(s) or sister(s) might you enlist to walk alongside you?