

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of August 26, 2018



Pastor Temple 8:15, 10:55, Pastor Hook 9:30

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? Follow-ups from last Sunday's message (Buy Up The Time)?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener: Who were the popular "villains" in film and literature when you were growing up? What did they seem to have in common?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Ephesians 6:10-19. As you go through the discussion questions, it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around

your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Where do you see signs in the world today that our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against rulers, authorities and powers of this dark world and against spiritual forces of evil? (verse 12)
- What do you believe Pastor Temple meant when he said “You can drift into sin but you can’t drift into righteousness?”
- How can putting on the various pieces of the full armor of God help in the struggle?
- What do you believe is meant by “praying in the Spirit” at all (kairos) times? How is this practice a resource for Christians in the struggle against the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil?

Another Related Scripture (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read aloud Matthew 4:1-11.
- What were some of the ways that the devil tried tempting Jesus in the wilderness? What would have been the appeal each one? How did the circumstances play into the temptations?
- How do you see the armor of God present in Jesus’ responses to this struggle against the evil one?
- Why did the devil eventually leave him? (see also James 4:7)

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon and in the reflections upon the additional scripture above?
- In which areas of temptation are you the most vulnerable and which resources discussed do you believe would most help you?
- What is your greatest source of hope for eventual victory?
- If someone were to walk with you for a year, do you believe they would observe you to be positive hopeful person in the fight against evil? Why or why not?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- How might you be more transparent with those around you this week with a hopeful attitude that is rooted in your faith in Jesus Christ?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.