

Ephesians 6:10 - 20

God's new community of the front line

- The new community is a community at war
 - We fight the right battle in the right way
 - United 'in Christ'
 - Imitators of God as 'dearly loved children'

Understanding the fight world

- Our battle is both individual and corporate
- Winning the battle – know your enemy
- Satan is the 'father of lies' He works in the gap
- Lies, discouragement, Doubt
- Satan can tempt but he cannot make us act. We choose. Matthew 4:1 - 11

Know your strengths 'In the Lord'

- Be strong in the Lord and His mighty power.
- We have the equipment that protects us
- The war is won, the battles are inevitable
- The battles are winnable.

A strong defence is the key

- Put on the full armour of God . Verse 11 and 13
- Individuals – locked together to be stronger
- Individuals who look out for one another
 - V 14 Truth – life held p by integrity
 - V 14 Right living – where are my weak points?
 - V15 Feet fitted with readiness – Act quickly and with urgency
 - V16 Shield of faith – James 2:20
 - V17 Helmet of salvation – Use your head you need it! Right thinking!
 - V17 Sword of the spirit – God's word. V18 Prayer – Pray in the Spirit on all occasions
 - V 19 Prayer - in the Spirit on all occasions.
 - V19 Proclaim – Fearlessly

Digging Deeper

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper in our small groups this week. The questions are for personal use or adapting as we remember all the Spiritual Blessings God has poured out through Jesus to His New Community.

Read Ephesians 6: 10 – 18

1. What are some of the Gospel challenges we face today? List them out and then identify what spiritual forces lie behind them. (eg: pride, greed etc)
2. What is God's mighty power and how can we be strong in the Lord?
3. Paul writes 'When the day of evil comes' not if! What steps can we take to help one another be battle fit!
4. Do you feel battle weary and would prefer to sit back in the sidelines? What are the dangers in this attitude? Read Philippians 3:12 – 4:1
5. Paul uses the familiar armour of a Roman soldier as his illustration. Individual armour was important but so too was how they supported and worked together. What are some of the internal challenges we face as God's new community that can weaken our defences?

Read Ephesians 6: 19 – 20

1. Why would Paul who knew the gospel so well need to know what words to use to make the gospel known?
2. What does this challenge us with as we face a culture that is increasingly hostile to the faith communities?