

Small Group/Sermon Notes based on The War: Part 5

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **The War: Part 5 "The Full Armor of God: Defense"**
- We as believers aren't just left here to wander around and do the best we can.
 - We are empowered and equipped by God to get the victory!
 - For example: **Acts 1:6-8**, spiritual gifts, etc.
 - We must seek after the empowering and equipping of God for this fight.
- The Full Armor of God: **Ephesians 6:10-18**.
 - V10: be strong in the Lord and in HIS mighty power. Whose power?
 - V11: The armor is there...you have to put it on. How do you do that?
 - V12: We are to set captives free...not hate the captives. Have you seen that mistake happen?
 - V13: What if you don't put the armor of God on? Will you stand? Many fall.
- The Belt of Truth **Ephesians 6:14**.
 - I cannot over estimate the importance of truth. LOVE THE TRUTH!
 - Read and discuss **2 Thessalonians 2:9-12**. Remember the talk about parables last week?
 - **John 8:42-44**. Man, that's harsh. But Jesus said it.
 - Seek truth. Not what is entertaining, or what falls in your favor, or what fits your personality, or what itches your ears. What are some examples of those errors?
 - A lot of truth is boring. Want to be healthier? Eat right and exercise. What to be financially secure? Spend less than you make.
 - You can stand in the truth. Don't be ashamed. God has accepted you.
- The Breastplate of Righteousness: **Ephesians 6:14**.
 - Want some boring truth? How about **1 John 3:7**.
 - There are no religious short cuts to righteousness! There is forgiveness, redemption, grace, patience, love, etc...
 - BUT you still have to do what is right!!!
 - The rest of the passage is kind of harsh: **1 John 3:7-10**.
 - Forgiveness, redemption, grace, patience, love, etc are there so that you can start over and do the right thing! Have you believed that there are religious short cuts to righteousness?
- So far not too complicated: seek truth and do the right thing.
- The Shield of Faith: **Ephesians 6:16**.
 - This isn't talking about how much you want something to happen, but how much you trust God.
 - If you aren't settled on truth and righteousness this one will be all messed up. How so?
 - Faith submits to God. Faith trusts and believes God.
 - How do you get more faith?
 - 1. Get to know God's promises in the Bible. **Romans 10:17**.
 - Try this out with **Philippians 4:6-7**.
 - 2. Choose to walk by faith when you are wavering. Reject fear.
 - Must be in truth and righteousness.
- Helmet of Salvation.
 - How scary is the battle if you know that you cannot die?
 - How scary is the battle if you know your friends and loved ones cannot die?
 - Read through **1 Peter 1:3-9** slowly.
 - There are trials. But there is security for the believer in Christ!
- Pray for each other before you finish up!