



Open it

1. Describe a time that you found yourself completely unprepared for something.

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore the Passage

Read Ephesians 6:10–17.

It was the second day of my “Lifespan Development” class with Dr. Lund as a freshman in college. He had given us an assignment to read the first chapter of our textbook before coming to class that day, which I obviously understood as a suggestion and not a real assignment—that was until he announced a pop quiz on the chapter. You could *feel* the “oh crud” from almost every one of us in the room, and then a few minutes later you could see it when not one person passed the quiz. I failed that quiz because I ignored what my professor had assigned because I didn’t think it was all that important.

Paul is going to tell us in this passage that as Christians, we are all soldiers in a spiritual war, and we should take this war seriously because our enemy is scheming to destroy us. If we don’t prepare for this war, the result will be that we won’t stand firm but will instead find ourselves falling victim to the evil plans and strategies of the enemy.

I learned very quickly that Dr. Lund meant business and when he assigned something, I had better make sure I was prepared. Let’s not make the same mistake with God’s Word and find ourselves flat-footed in the heat of battle.

2. What does Paul call believers to *be* in this passage?
3. What does Paul imply believers are part of?
4. Who is the opponent in this spiritual battle?
5. In view of this battle, what are believers to put on?
6. List the different pieces of this armor that Paul talks about.
7. What is the ultimate purpose for believers to put on the whole armor of God?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: The Battle is Real

Read Ephesians 6:10–11, 13.

Paul makes the claim that all of us as Christians are engaged in a spiritual war with an enemy that we cannot see. It's not a matter of *if* you'll find yourself in spiritual battle but *when*. "You might be thinking, 'That doesn't seem right at all! I thought that when you became a Christian, Jesus would set you free from the kingdom of Satan so that the devil could no longer touch you! I thought that conversion would take you out of the battle, not thrust you deeper into the conflict!' If that is your concept of the Christian life, you couldn't be more wrong! When you become a Christian, that's when the battle really begins!" ¹

The problem is that because we don't *see* this battle like we see people around us and see the trees and the rest of the world, we don't believe that this battle actually exists. But just like we can't see the wind, but we see the effects of the wind, we can totally see the effects of this spiritual war going on all around us.

¹ Quote by Ray Stedman from "Spiritual Warfare". Found at: https://www.preceptaustin.org/ephesians_610-11

- 8. What are some signs that we can see that would tell us that this spiritual battle is going on all around us? What things from this passage might help us identify signs of this battle around us?**
- 9. How have you experienced this spiritual battle in your own life?**
- 10. What do you think it might mean if you're totally unaware of this spiritual battle in your life?**
- 11. Do you think this spiritual battle is always going on, or is it a battle that comes and goes from time to time? Is there anything in this passage that supports your thoughts?**

Day 3 — Today's Theme: Identifying the Enemy

Read Ephesians 6:12.

We do not fight against flesh and blood means that our enemies are not human but demonic. Many in Paul's Ephesian audience had previously dabbled in the occult (Acts 19:18–20) and would have been familiar with the devil and his evil forces.

The Bible calls the devil, or Satan, “the prince of this world” (John 12:31), “the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient” (Ephesians 2:2), “the god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4), and “the accuser” of believers (Revelation 12:10). This is our true enemy.

Paul says, in our fight with this enemy, we must be aware of his tactics (2 Corinthians 2:11). And in Ephesians 6:11–12, Paul mentions three main traits of Satan's spiritual forces. First, they are powerful. They have authority to rule in the world. Second, they are evil. These wicked spiritual enemies use their power to wreak destruction. They are associated with darkness and not light, wickedness and not good. And, third, they are shrewd. They know how to scheme and strategize. They are so skilled at deception that sometimes they come disguised as angels of light (2 Corinthians 11:14) or wolves in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15).²

12. What makes it difficult for us to remember that our battle isn't “against flesh and blood”?

13. What might help us identify the right enemy in this battle?

14. What might happen to our love for others and our mission as Christians if we identify the wrong enemy in this battle?

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/not-fight-against-flesh-and-blood.html>

Day 4 — Today's Theme: The Right Equipment

Read Ephesians 6:14-17.

It doesn't make sense to use a hammer to plant a garden or a shovel to frame a wall. It's important to have the right tools for the right job.

If we are in the midst of a spiritual battle, that means we need spiritual equipment to be effective and find victory. We don't need tanks, helicopters, missiles, or ghillie suits. We need spiritual armor and spiritual equipment. Thankfully God has provided us with all the equipment and armor necessary to fight the good fight. The reason we equip this armor is so **"that we might be able to withstand the schemes of the devil"** (v.11) and **"that we may be able to withstand in the evil day"** (v.13).

If we have been given this armor so that we might withstand the schemes of the devil, could it be that the armor and equipment that God has provided might also reveal what the enemy's schemes and strategies in this war might look like?

15. Why is it important for us to think strategically about how the enemy might attack us?

16. For each of the items Paul lists as parts of the full armor of God, write down what that piece of armor might reveal about how the enemy might attack us and why that piece of armor is necessary for us to be effective in the battle. (Hint: Think back to Fall Camp a couple years ago.)

Belt of Truth

Breastplate of Righteousness

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Helmet of Salvation

Shield of Faith

Sword of the Spirit

17. Is there any piece of the armor of God that you struggle to put on? What could you do in the next week to practice putting on that armor?