

Family Worship Guide

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Ephesians 6:10-20

“Being Strong in Christ”

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ¹⁶ in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. ¹⁷ And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, ¹⁹ and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

Getting Started

- What were some of your (or your children’s) favorite dress-up costumes? Why those?

Going Deeper

- Where do you see the devil’s schemes being played out in the world today?
- What makes up the “armor of God” (vv. 14-17)? Which parts are defensive weapons? Offensive?
- In what ways does the armor enable us to stand against evil? What piece of armor do you need the most in your life right now?
- Against what have you been struggling lately? How does this passage help to equip you?

Bringing it Home

- If you had to compare your spiritual armor to this list, where are you strong? Where are you weak? What do you need to do to prepare for battle? What is at stake if you do not?
- What evidence do you see of the battle in your life? Your church? Your community? Your nation? The world? What would it mean for you “to stand” in these particular battlefields?¹

¹ Questions adapted from *Serendipity Bible for Groups*, 4th Ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998), 1629-1630.