



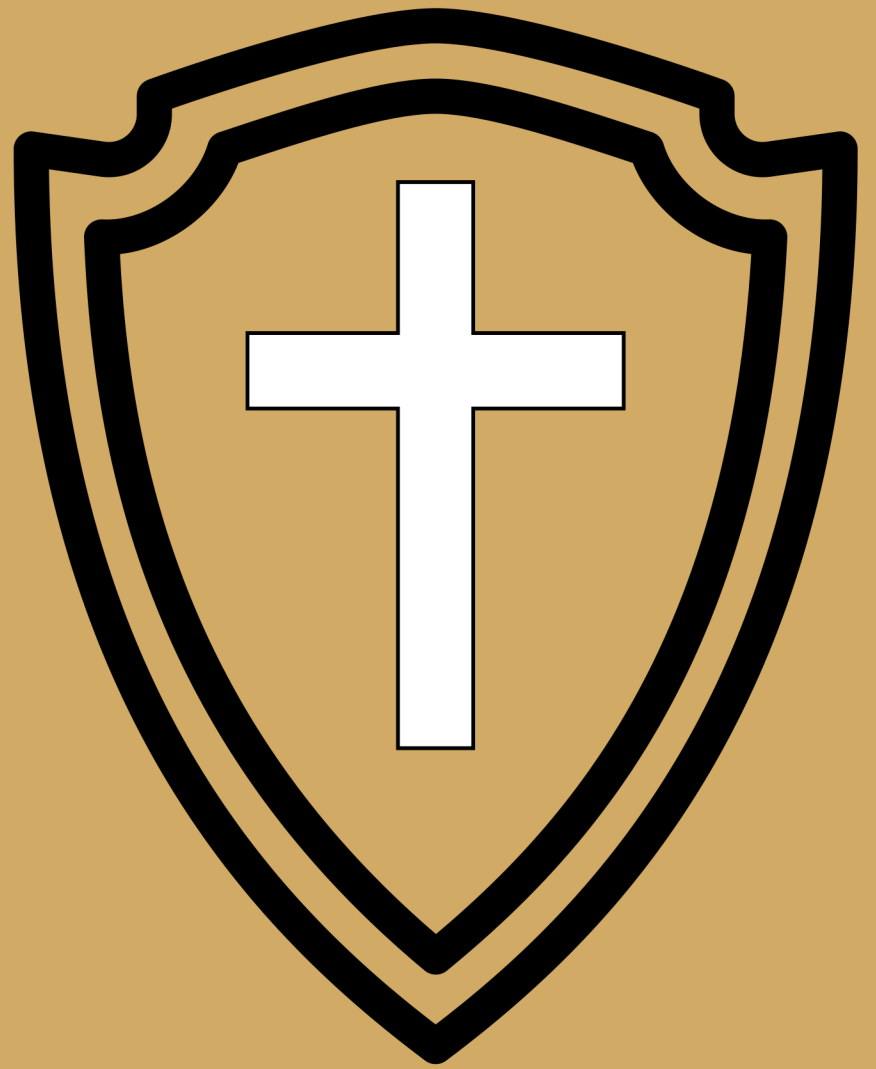
**ARMOR
OF GOD
LIFEGROUP
STUDY**

**THE BELT OF TRUTH
WEEK 2 - 4/23/23**

WELCOME

When we get in our car, we put on our seatbelts. When we get on a bike, we wear a helmet. We wash our hands before we eat. Why? We do these things because we understand that riding in a car, getting on a bike, and even eating food can be hazardous to our health! So why would we go into a world that hates us (John 17:14) where we're going to wrestle with rulers, authorities, cosmic powers, and spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:12) without wearing protective gear?

In the next seven weeks, we're going to put on the armor of God. We will put it on ourselves and help others put it on as well. The LORD is sending us to battle. We must be ready and we will be!



BEFORE THE SQUAD MEETS

1. If you're bringing a new person to the study, we recommend getting them study materials ahead of time so they can feel prepared.
2. Pray that the LORD will open your eyes and heart to receive the lessons he has to teach you in the study.
3. Read the scripture focus for the study.
4. Go through the questions and think about how you might answer them. We've provided space in the study for you to write down your answers if you'd like.



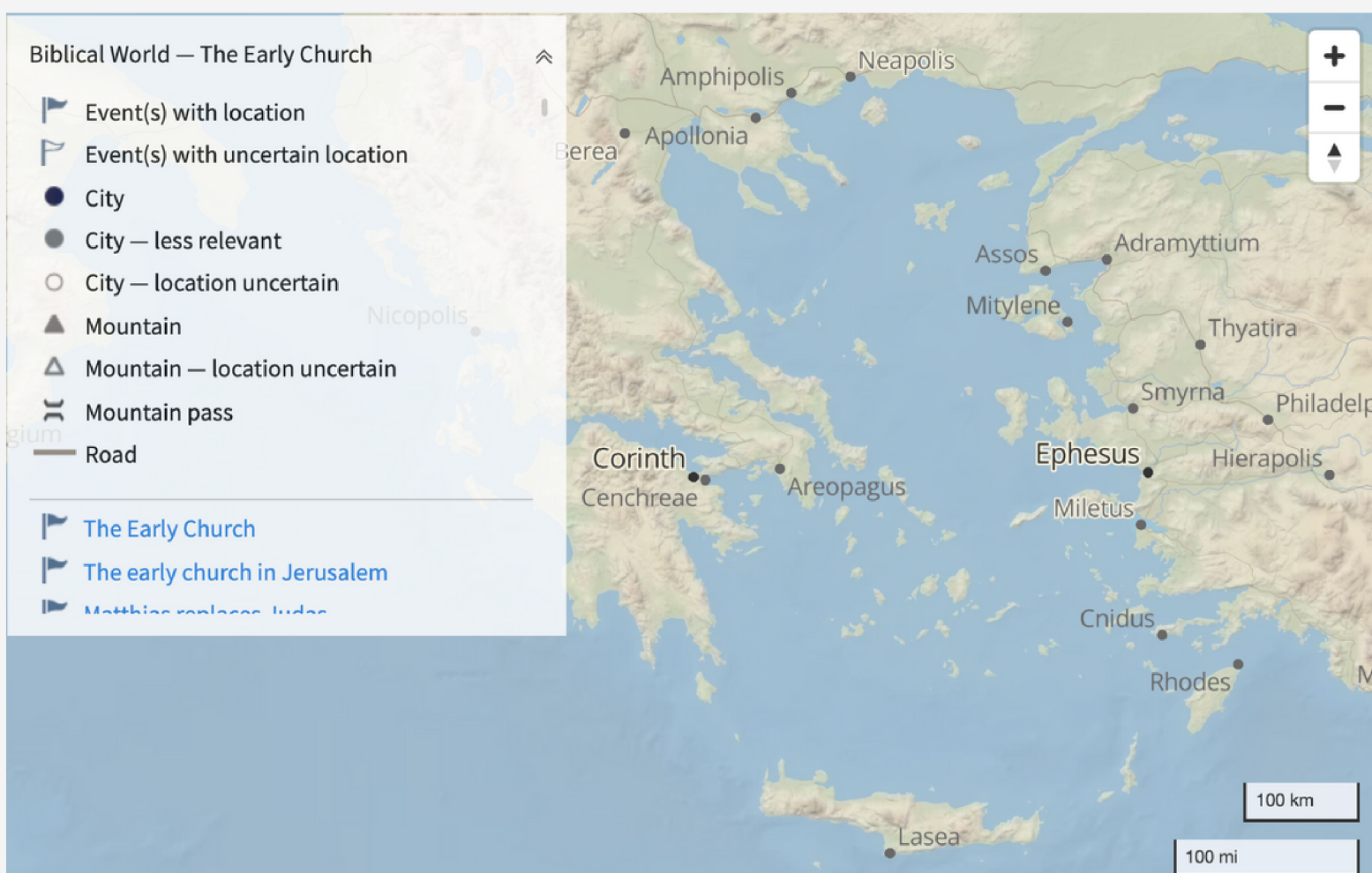
INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

The truth hurts, but lies hurt even more. Jesus told us He's the way, the TRUTH, and the life. God loves the truth because the truth reveals what's broken, what's hurting, and what needs attention. God loves the truth because He is glorious and beautiful, and when we speak truthfully about Him, we show the world the greatest possible good. The enemy wants to conceal God's glory by lying. Jesus even called our enemy the father of lies and a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). It's no coincidence that Jesus ties lies to death. It was Satan's lie that tempted Eve to break God's law. It was that sin that caused the fall of creation into sin and death. Thankfully, the battle is not over. We have a belt of truth in our arsenal.

HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

Paul's writing Ephesus, a major battlefield of spiritual warfare. You can read more about the spiritual warfare that was raging in Ephesus in Act 19. God was busy doing miracles through the Apostle Paul in Ephesus. He cured the sick. He delivered people from demonic possession. Some people were even cured when they touched handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched Paul's skin. Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish high priest, even tried engaging in spiritual warfare in the battle. They attempted to expel spirits by proclaiming, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." The spirits responded by saying, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?" In Ephesians 6, Paul encourages the church to put on the armor of God so that demons tremble when they consider attacking us.

BATTLEFIELD MAP



BASIC BIBLE

TRAINING

What is the LORD revealing to us in his Word? What does the church believe?



OUR TRAINING

How does God's Word apply to my life? What is God calling me to do? How is God comforting me in this text?

I. Read Ephesians 4:17-25. Who are the Gentiles? How do they walk?

II. Why are Gentiles alienated from God?

III. What has the church in Ephesus learned that the Gentiles have not?

IV. Where is the truth? Having put away falsehood, how are we to speak with our neighbors?

I. Read Ephesians 6:14. We are to act as soldiers in combat, standing firm, resisting, and prevailing against our enemy. How do you know if you're standing in the truth? Are you standing firm in the truth?

II. What lies has the enemy used to try to lead you into temptation? Did you stand firm in the truth? What should we do when we've failed to stand firm in the truth and yielded to temptation?

FAMILY TRAINING

How does this scripture apply to my family life as a husband, wife, father, mother, or child?

I. Has a family member ever lied to you? If so, how did it make you feel? Did it change your relationship with your family member? If so, how?

II. Read Proverbs 12:22. Is it ever proper to lie to our parents, children, or spouse? Explain your answer.

MEETING THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

What does this text tell me about proper worship? How can this text help me encounter the living God?

I. God speaks truth to us in worship, and we must speak truth back. During the time of confession, we honestly confess our failures to the LORD. Afterward, we hear the truthful assurance of our forgiveness from scripture. What lies do we tell ourselves that get in the way of our relationship with God?

II. How does worship help you to, "...put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (verses 22-24)

COMBAT - CONQUERING THE ENEMY

What does the text show me about my role in building God's kingdom? How can God work through me to bring others to Christ?

I. Name three truths that frighten the devil. How can we use these truths to build the Kingdom of God?

II. Name three truths that frighten the church. How can we use these truths to build the Kingdom of God?

NOTES