



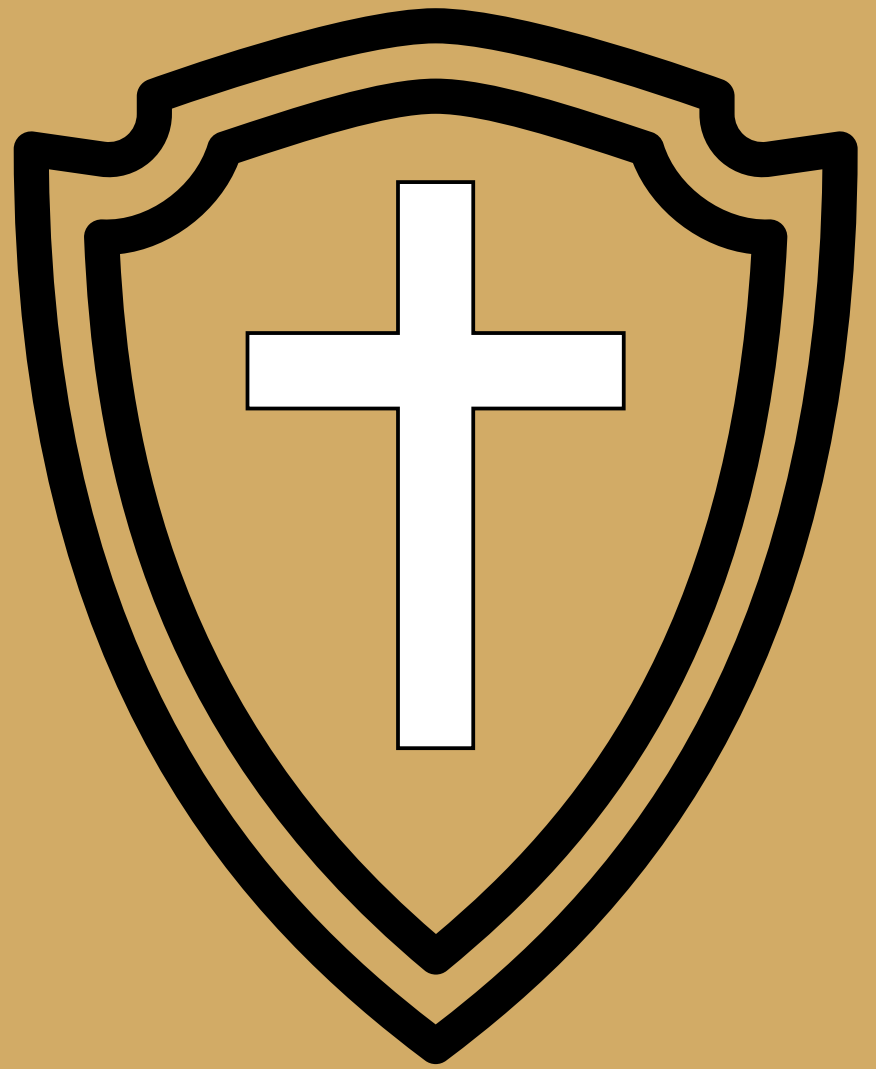
**ARMOR
OF GOD
LIFEGROUP
STUDY**

**THE BREASTPLATE OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS
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.



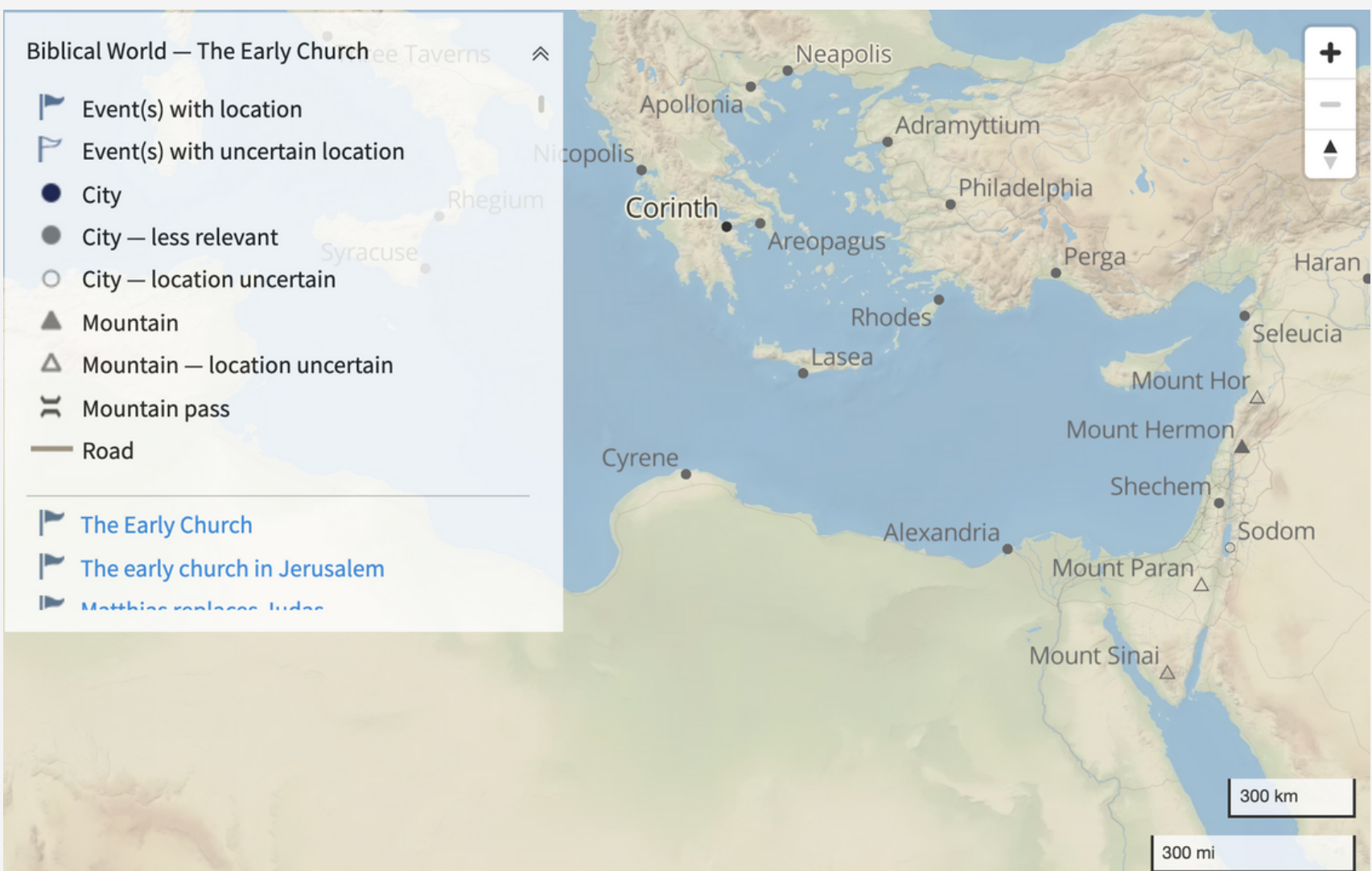
INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

Apple founder Steve Jobs was famous for stealing other people's ideas and taking credit for their innovations. While working with a group of engineers to develop the Macintosh computer, he hung a pirate flag in their office because they stole the idea for a graphical user interface from Xerox. He was fond of the saying, "Good artists borrow, but great artists steal." We LOVE to take credit for what we do. Some, if they can get away with it, love to take credit for what others have done. In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he wants the church to know EXACTLY who earned their righteousness - it's Jesus Christ. He also wants them to know that they cannot take any credit for their righteousness. To do so is to be a pirate, stealing from God's glory. The LORD wants us to put on HIS righteousness and to give glory, honor, and praise to Jesus for earning our righteousness.

HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

The church in Corinth was a mess. Satan targeted it, and he was waging a successful campaign against the believers in the highly pagan city. The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthian church recounts their divisiveness (1:11-12), acceptance of sexual immorality (5:1-2), and litigiousness (6:1). What was the problem? The Corinthians were focused on elevating themselves - their status, their desires, their power - than elevating and glorifying the LORD. How could the Corinthians turn things around? Put on the breastplate of righteousness.

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 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. What is the cross to those who are perishing? What is the cross to those who are being saved?

II. Can people come to know God through wisdom? How do people come to know God?

III. In our text, what does God choose? Why does He choose it?

IV. According to verse 30, what has Christ become for the church? Why shouldn't we boast in ourselves?

I. If our righteousness comes from Christ, can we do whatever we want?

II. When we put on the breastplate of righteousness, what are we protecting?

FAMILY TRAINING

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

I. God chose the foolish, low, and despised of the world and made them His children. We don't choose our family. How does the LORD treat His children when they are foolish according to His wisdom? How should we treat our children or family when they are foolish according to God's wisdom?

II. When a parent puts on the breastplate of righteousness, does it protect the children as well? 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. Read Romans 3:21-22. How do Christians become righteous?

II. Is worship only for righteous Christians? Explain your answer.

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. Read Matthew 5:17-20. Who can enter the kingdom of heaven?

II. How can our righteousness exceed that of the scribes and Pharisees?

NOTES