

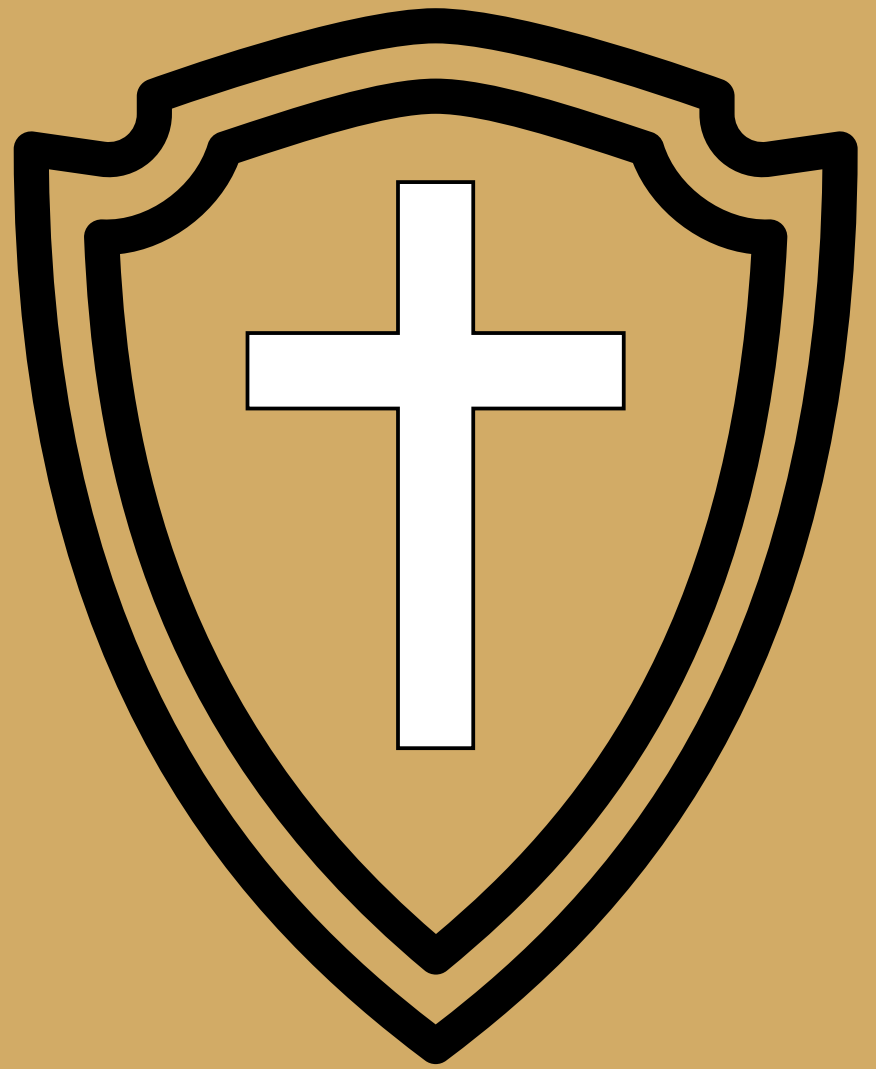


**SIZING UP THE ENEMY  
WEEK 4 - 5/7/23**

# 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.



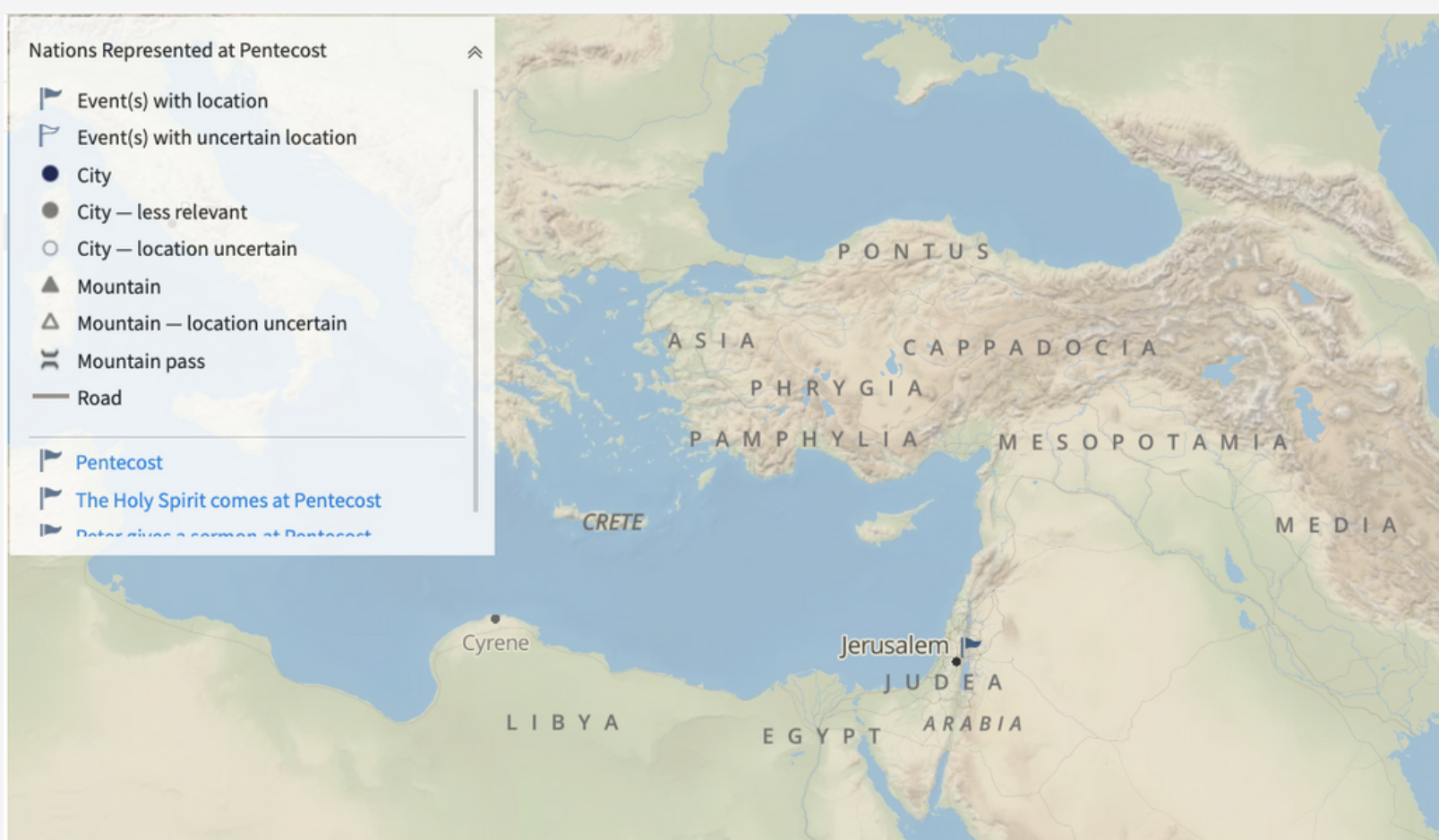
## INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

How many people do you know who would tell you they would like to be happier? Wealthier? Healthier? These things aren't bad. In fact, it's good to be happy, to have wealth to take care of your family's needs (and the needs of others), and to have low blood pressure. However, in our social media-driven anxiety-plagued reality, what most of us need is PEACE. Many are at war with themselves, telling themselves that they're worthless or that they're not who God made them to be. Many are at war with others in their work or family life, constantly battling with them over seemingly significant issues. Those who do not know Christ are at war with God, insisting on their own way and rejecting God's sovereign rule over them. The gospel is a gospel of peace that reconciles us to ourselves, our neighbors, and our LORD.

## HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

Paul wrote his letter to the church in Philippi while imprisoned in Rome. There was a lot of trouble in that church that congregation he helped create on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:11-40). Some in the church were preaching Christ out of envy, rivalry, or ambition (1:17). Some were suffering persecution (1:27-30). Some wanted to water down the gospel by adding requirements to follow the law of Moses (3:2), while others flaunted the freedom of the gospel to inflame their worldly desires (3:18-19). Yet, through it all, Paul had peace and shared the peace of Christ with a church that needed it.

## 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 Philippians 4:1-9. What does Paul want Euodia and Syntyche to do? What can we discern about Euodia and Syntyche's relationship from our text?

II. How often does Paul want the church to rejoice? Does he give any reason in our text to rejoice?

III. What does Paul encourage the church to do with their needs?

IV. What does the peace of God do for believers? What does our text say the church should do to enjoy the peace of God?

I. What is God's peace? What robs you of God's peace? How do you get it back?

II. Read Ephesians 6:15. We are to put on shoes of readiness given by the gospel of peace. What does the gospel of peace make you ready to do?

## FAMILY TRAINING

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

I. Life events like graduations, weddings, births, funerals, and divorces cause tremendous stress and anxiety in families. How can we use the gospel of peace in these circumstances to lower the anxiety they cause?

II. Anxiety is “a feeling of worry, nervousness, or unease, typically about an imminent event or something with an uncertain outcome.” Is there a healthy level of anxiety that we should have for our family members? For example, should parents have anxiety about their children going away to college or getting married? Explain your answers.

## 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. In our text, Paul stresses the importance of people in the church getting along with one another and finding agreement. How do we handle disagreements about worship? How should we handle disagreements about worship?

II. What element of worship do you love that brings you the most peace? Explain.



# 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. We can get discouraged when we see our culture and nation turning away from God. Yet, Paul tells the church that, "The Lord is at hand." What good things have you seen God doing in our culture and nation that causes you to rejoice and celebrate?

II. Building God's Kingdom can be difficult. For example, Paul wrote his letter from prison. What hardships have the Lord helped you overcome so that you might continue to build His Kingdom?

## NOTES