

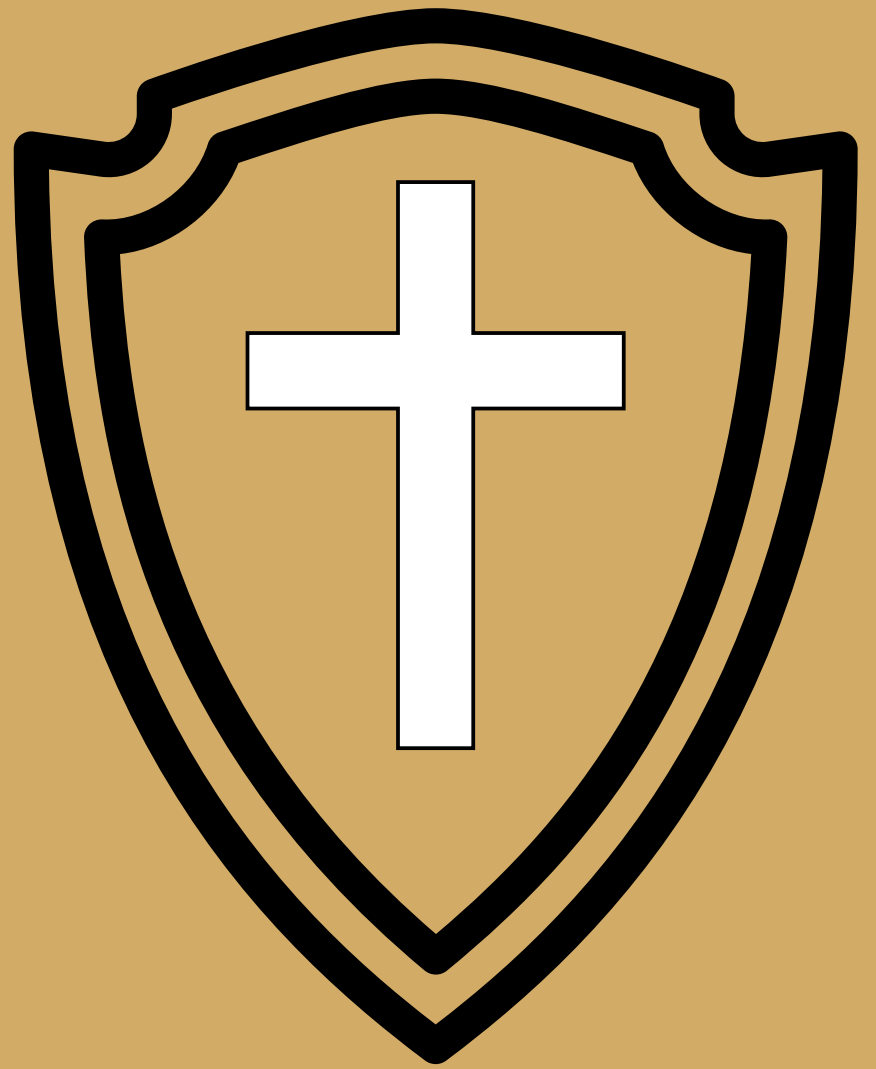


**SIZING UP THE ENEMY  
WEEK 1 - 4/16/23**

# 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.



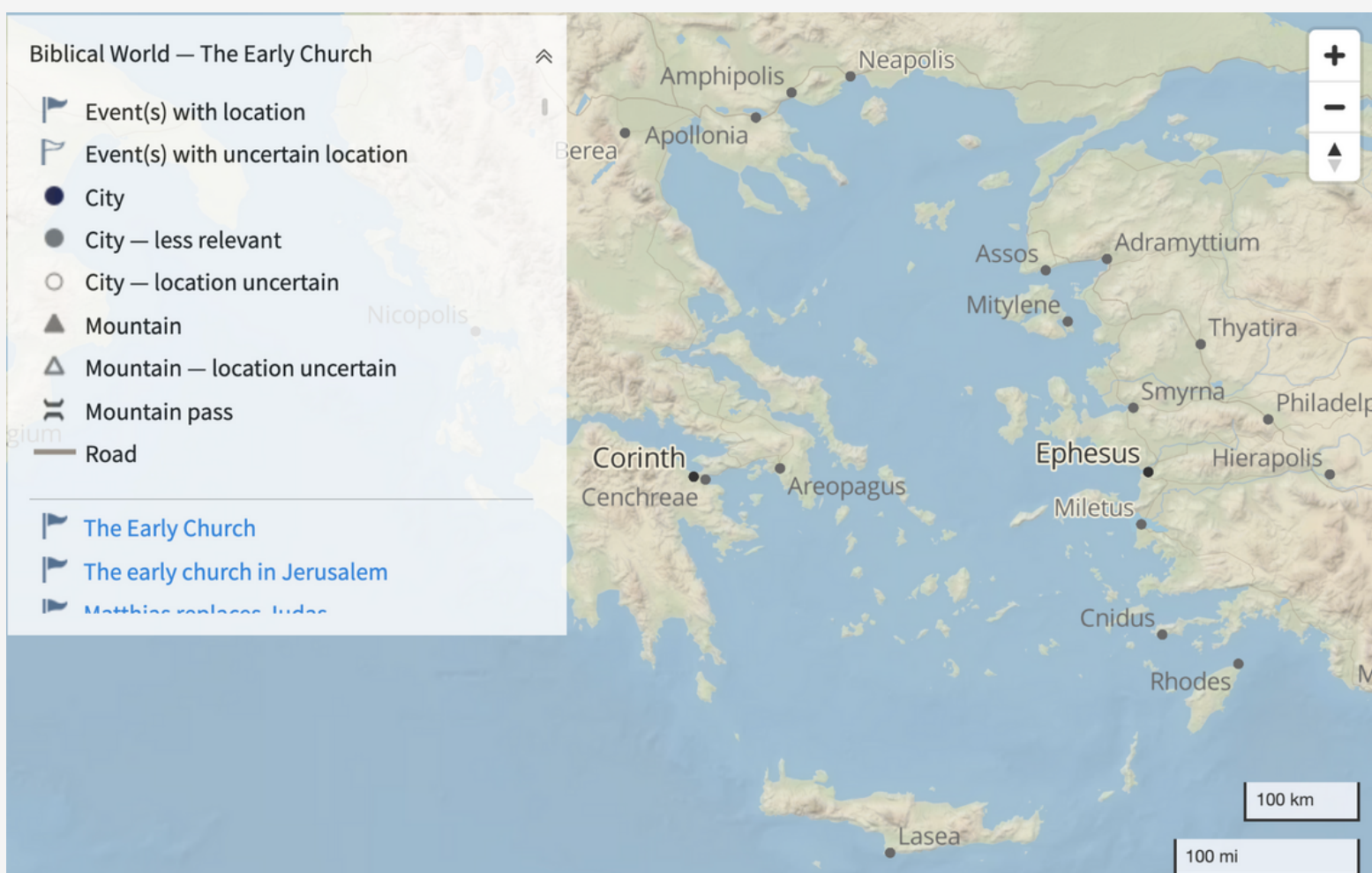
## INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

The enemy is comprehensive in his attacks on us. He doesn't spare our worship, our time with the LORD, our relationships with our family members, our finances, our sex life, or our relationships with those in the church. They're ALL targets. Therefore, we must be comprehensive in our faith. We must put on the whole armor of God to protect ourselves - the belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of readiness, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. Gear up. We're taking the battle to the enemy!

## 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 6:10-20. Who are our enemies? Why must we put on the whole armor of God?

II. When must we put on the whole armor of God?

III. What is the sword of the spirit?

IV. Who does Paul tell the church in Ephesus to pray for? Who should we pray for? When should we pray for them?

I. Who/what are the people/circumstances that are the most difficult in your life? How might the enemy exploit these people or circumstances? What can you do about it?

II. Who/what are the people/circumstances that give you the most joy? How might the enemy exploit these people or circumstances? What can you do about it?

## FAMILY TRAINING

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

I. Paul singles out prayer as a powerful spiritual weapon. How do you pray for your family? Do you pray for protection against spiritual attacks?

II. What weaknesses have you observed in Christian families that are prone to attack by the enemy? How can the church help families strengthen themselves where they're weak?

## 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. How does the enemy attempt to stop you from worshiping God? What article of armor have you found most useful to battle against the enemy's desire to keep you from holy worship?

II. How does the enemy attack our worship? What can we do about it?

# 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. Is the church ready for battle? Or have we put down our armor and stopped training? Explain.

II. What belief systems and ideas can you identify that are being used against the church as we proclaim the gospel? How can we prepare our young people to counter these ideas?

## NOTES