

# Sermon-Based Small Group Bible Study

## The Glorious Church: The War We Fight (Ephesians 6:10–20)

### Open

Select one of these “ice breakers” to get the conversation going toward the study.

- For work, home, or hobby, is there something you do that requires a lot of equipment? What’s an unusual or little-known piece of equipment you use?
- Besides literal wars, what are some conflicts that people in your experience have called wars?
- When you travel, do you like to pack light or take everything you might need?

### Dig

After reading Ephesians 6:10–20 together, discuss these questions.

1. The passage begins by emphasizing “be strong in the Lord.” Based on what you recall from the rest of Ephesians, what makes the Lord someone we can depend on for strength?
2. Paul emphasizes the Christian’s struggle is not with people but with spiritual beings that draw people toward evil. For someone like Paul, a prisoner because of false accusations, how might that perspective change his outlook on his own situation?
3. The “armor” Paul describes in verse 11 is “full,” that is, the heavy armor of an ancient infantryman with complete protection. And it is “of God,” given by God. In verses 12–17, how do you see the fullness or completeness of the armor expressed? How is it clear that it comes from God?
4. In verse 18 Paul calls for prayer. How is that call like the call to “be strong in the Lord” and to “put on the whole armor of God”? How does the context of struggle make it necessary to have perseverance?
5. In verses 19–20, Paul refers to himself. How is Paul an example of being strong “in the Lord”? Of the struggle against spiritual forces? Of putting on the full armor of God? Of praying at all times in the Spirit?

*Summary: The victory of Christ in his death and resurrection are complete, but until his return, the struggle with evil continues. But the end is certain—Christ is victorious—and so in the struggle now Christ’s people will prevail as long as they rely on what God supplies. His provision is complete and sufficient. Like Paul the prisoner, we may appear to be overwhelmed, but relying on our Lord we will always share his victory in our struggle with the powers of evil.*

### Reflect

Use any of these prompts to encourage group members to apply the text to their own experiences.

- In what ways or areas do you tend to rely on yourself and your own resources? What would it look like for you to rely on the Lord in those areas?
- Our media culture encourages us to divide people around us into allies and enemies. How might our perspective change if we remember we really struggle against spiritual forces, not against the people they misdirect?

- Consider a question Pastor Bryan asked in his sermon: where is God calling you to shift your prayers?

## Pray

Invite the group to pray together using any of these suggestions.

- What needs have you heard from others in the group that we can pray about?
- What has the Lord supplied for you that you need to rely on more? Let's thank him for those things and ask his help in trusting him in those areas.
- What parts of your struggle are especially intense right now? Let's pray for God's strength for each of those.