

LIFE GROUP Discussion Guide

Northend Church

THE HEART OF JESUS: The Opposition

Ephesians 6:10-18

A NOTE TO LEADERS: These questions are to guide your conversation. Don't be rigid about getting through every last one. Be sure to spend time on the application part.

OPEN:

1. What were some of your initial feelings and thoughts about this week's sermon?
2. Have you ever had something very strange happen to you or somewhere you were that mad you wonder if it was something supernatural going on? What happened?

DIG:

- 1) Read Ephesians 6:10-18

***10** Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

***13** Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.*

- 2) What are the great struggles with:
The World?
The Flesh? Romans 7:17. Are there other passages that come to mind?
- 3) Who is Satan? What does the bible say about him (1 Peter 5:8; 2 Cor 11:14)? What kind of power does he have or not have? According to Eph 6:12 where is our struggle and who is it with? What do you think of when you read that?
- 4) What are ways that we can allow Satan a foothold in our lives? Dean Sherman, a teacher on Spiritual Warfare tells a story about a room that has nothing in it, but a partially open window with plant on the sill, and the door is locked. You unlock the door and go in only to find the plant on the floor. How did it get there if no one came in and the screen in the window is still intact? The window of course. A breeze or a gust blew it over. He says that we often leave windows open in our lives, but we can shut them. What are everyday type windows we leave open that could give Satan a foothold? Sometimes they're the simplest things. Other times they are big. What might they be? (Eph 4:26-27; Gal 5:19-21; Col 3:5-9)
- 5) How does one keep Satan from getting a foothold (James 4:7-10)? How easy is this? What might it look like for you?

- 6) Take some time to go through the armour of God discussing each piece and how you use it. How is each part valuable? Think creatively by imagining yourself dressed in the armour. How might each part protect you? Share how you are personally doing in living out each area?
- 7) Jesus said in Matthew 28:18 that all power and authority in heaven and earth has been given to him and now us through the Holy Spirit. How can you live in his power and authority when it comes specifically to Spiritual Warfare?

APPLY:

- 1) Keeping the discussion about the pieces of armour in mind share areas you struggle with. Is it prayer? Believing? Knowing God's promises....? How can people encourage you to grow in these areas? We all have something.
- 2) How do you plan to be a blessing to others this week showing the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

PRAY:

Take some time praising and glorifying God for his grace, mercy, power and protection. Include time to pray specifically for each person and their walk with God, that they may be filled with the confidence and power of the Holy Spirit. Conclude however the Holy Spirit leads you.