

Spiritual Warfare

Merchantville Small Group Guide

Warm-Up Questions

1. When was a time you felt totally unprepared for a situation—but somehow got through it?
2. If your life was a battlefield, what kind of "armor" do you think you tend to rely on most—your mind, your emotions, your faith, your relationships?

Key Passage: Ephesians 6:10-20

In Ephesians 6:10–20, Paul lays out a strategy for surviving—and thriving—in spiritual warfare. Henry Noye taught that spiritual battles aren't random or symbolic; they're real, targeted, and strategic. The enemy's goal isn't always destruction—it's allegiance. Satan would rather gain your submission than wipe you out. That's why Paul doesn't tell us to fight harder but to *stand*—because the battle is already won in Christ, but we must take our position and hold it.

Henry walked through each piece of the armor of God and its real-world implication: truth keeps us grounded, righteousness protects our core, peace keeps us moving forward, faith shields us from the enemy's long-range attacks, salvation secures our identity, and the Word gives us the power to fight back. Prayer isn't an add-on—it's how we stay aligned with God's Spirit instead of just reacting in our flesh.

The message closed with a sobering reality: being spiritually armed doesn't guarantee comfort. Paul wrote these words while in chains. Suffering, restriction, and pressure don't mean you're losing—they might mean you're right where God wants you. The call is to remain faithful, alert, and fully dressed in the armor that only comes through a real relationship with Jesus.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. Henry said, "Satan doesn't necessarily want to destroy you—he wants to disciple you." What do you think that means, and where do you see that kind of subtle spiritual warfare show up in your life?
2. Paul commands us to *stand* multiple times. Why do you think spiritual victory is more about standing than fighting? What does "standing" look like in a practical situation you're facing now?
3. Which piece of the armor of God (truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, the Word) do you most often leave behind? Why do you think that is?
4. Henry compared wrestling to spiritual warfare, saying the goal isn't annihilation but *submission*. What lies or pressures have tried to "submit" your mind or heart lately?
5. Has hardship ever made you question your spiritual strength? How does the idea that you can be *well-armed and uncomfortable* change your view of suffering?
6. How does the concept of "praying in the Spirit" shift your understanding of prayer? Do your prayers tend to be Spirit-led or self-led?
7. In what ways do you see spiritual attacks working through distractions, anxiety, or isolation in your life?

8. Henry said, "Your position doesn't diminish your purpose." Are there areas of your life where you feel restricted, and how might God want to use you right where you are?

Pray