

**BRIARCLIFF CHURCH**  
**Small Group Study Guide: Ephesians**  
Week of November 26 (Week 13)  
Ephesians 6:10-20



**REVIEW OF EPHESIANS 6:1-9**

Ephesians 6:1-9 comes under the umbrella of exhortation to mutual submission that had introduced the household code in 5:21. “As in the earlier part of the code, the subordinate group is addressed first. The structure of the exhortation follows the pattern dominant in the early Christian code. There is the address to the particular group, then follows an imperative with the appropriate object, and then the amplification of the imperative with a phrase, “in the Lord.” This is followed by a reason clause providing the motivation or warrant” (Andrew Lincoln. *Ephesians*. WBC. 395-96). Ephesians 6:1-9 can be divided into two sections. The first section is about the relationship of children and parents (6:1-4) and the second section is about the relationship between bondservants and masters (6:5-9). Paul’s admonition on how subordinates relate to their leaders (5:22-6:1-9) and vice versa is to be “in the Lord” which is probably different from the culture the Ephesian believers know of.

**BIG IDEA**

For believers, to stand against the constant attack of Satan and his forces is to be on our guard by putting on the whole armour of God.

**OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT**

Ephesians 6:10-20 is the passage for our study this week. This passage is the last of Paul’s exhortations in the Letter to the Ephesians as verse 10 indicates (notice the word “Finally”). Ephesians 6:10-20 may be divided into two sections. Verses 10-12 talks about recognizing the presence of a formidable enemy and verses 13-20 stresses on utilizing the whole armour of God to withstand the enemy’s attack and counter-attack with God’s word—the sword of the Spirit. In his exhortations, beginning at chapter 4, Paul focuses on the believer’s relationship with God, with fellow believers, with the society at large, with their family, and with their work (Eph. 4:1-6:9). But in Ephesians 6:10-20, Paul’s exhortation shifts from “how to behave” to “how to battle.” On the shift of Paul’s emphasis, Skevington Wood’s observation is helpful in putting Paul’s thought into perspective. He says “What Paul writes here concerning the Christian warfare is the external counterpart of his emphasis on the inward growth and edification of the church (Eph. 4:12, 16). The body of Christ must be united and built up so as to be ready for the inevitable encounter with evil. Each believer needs to be prepared for the fight” (Wood. *Ephesians*. EBC. 85).

## **OBSERVING THE TEXT**

### **Starting with God**

1. As you read Ephesians 6:10-20, what do you understand about the character and nature of God?

### **Continuing the Conversation**

2. Before getting into the details of the armor of God, what does Paul want believers to know? (Read verses 10-12).

3. In verses 10-12, Paul stresses the importance of recognizing the spiritual enemy and the resources available to us to tackle this enemy. In verses 13-17, Paul exhorts believers to put on the whole armor of God. What is the armor and what does Paul say about each piece of the armor of God?

4. What is Paul's emphasis in verses 18-20 and why?

## CONNECTING WITH OTHER TEXT

5. Read Isaiah 11:5 and 59:17 with Ephesians 6:13-17 to understand the imagery of the armor of God Paul used.
6. Compare the focus of Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:14-21 with his exhortation for prayer in Ephesians 6:18-20.
7. Read Acts 4:29 and Ephesians 6:19 and see the emphasis of these passages.

## APPLYING THE TEXT

1. In verses 10-12, Paul wants believers to know precisely three things; they are the availability of the spiritual/inner strength in God, the armor, and the enemy. Knowledge of the resources for the battle and our enemy is paramount in winning the battle. How have you been waging your spiritual warfare?
2. Paul has shown that believers are in a spiritual warfare and need spiritual strength and armor to engage in the battle. As you consider the armor of God in verses 13-17, do you find yourself constantly prepared with the whole armor of God? Or, which piece(s) of armor do you find yourself neglecting or needing to put on?
3. How are the aspects of prayer in verses 18-20 a part of your prayer life?

## PRAYER

### PRAYER GUIDE

November 26, 2023

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

Read these verses each day this week. Allow each day to equip you for spiritual battle. We need not fear the enemy, neither can we falter in praying to *be strong in the Lord*.

**Monday:** <sup>10-11</sup> *Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.* It does not say be strong in your own strength. You are no match for the devil's strategies. Stop and think about it. Are you standing firm? Yes or no? How do you need to pray right now for *his mighty power*? Go ahead and do it, right now!

**Tuesday:** <sup>12</sup> *For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.* Read that verse one more time. How does it speak to you personally? How aware are you of the unseen world? Let this verse guide you as you pray. Respond in a written prayer of commitment.

**Wednesday:** <sup>14-17</sup> Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. *For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News ... hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.* Ask God to look at how are you are spiritually dressed right now. Are there any adjustments that need to be made? Ask him to make you aware of missing parts of armor and ask for his help to *stand your ground*.

**Thursday:** <sup>18</sup> *Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.* How well are you praying in the Spirit (in harmony with the Spirit)? Are you *alert and persistent in your prayers*? How does this verse challenge you to pray? Write your prayer and carry it with you today.

**Friday:** <sup>19</sup> *And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.* Ask God to help you say the right words, at the right time, in the right way, and to the right person. Make extra effort to pray for the one speaking each Sunday.

For more resources, visit [www.briarcliff.church/ephesians](http://www.briarcliff.church/ephesians)