

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Ephesians – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

Ephesians 6:14

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Read Eph. 6:10-17

- **The Shield of Faith**
- **The Helmet of Salvation**
- **The Sword of the Spirit**

I. The Shield of Faith

- What are the flaming darts of the evil one?
- Read the following verses and explain how they are related to faith.
 - **Proverbs 8:34**
 - **Luke 11:28**
 - **James 1:25**
- How does faith always lead to obedience?
- Give an example of a recent situation in which your faith in God was a powerful shield for you.
- Why is it important that your faith be built on truth?
- In which of these areas does your faith struggle most: believing in God’s power, believing in His love, or believing in His personal interest in you?

- Can you think of any Bible verses that help strengthen your faith that God is for you?
- How does Jesus' death and resurrection encourage your faith? Read Romans 8:32 and Romans 8:34 to help answer this question.

II. The Helmet of Salvation

- What is the Helmet of Salvation? Read 1 Thessalonians 5:8 to help answer this question.
- What is the foundation of your hope that God will welcome you into heaven?
- **Read 1 Peter 1:3-9 and discuss** how the hope of our salvation helps us through trials. Pay attention to verse 6.
- Why is 2 Corinthians 4:17 such an encouraging verse?
- **Read Job 19:25-26.** How did the hope of salvation help Job get through his trials?
- Why should all Christians have assurance of their salvation? Why might real Christians nonetheless struggle with assurance?
- How does your hope of heaven encourage you in the midst of trials? Give a recent example where this happened (or perhaps where it should have but didn't).
- In what area of your life do you need the boldness that hope gives?

III. The Sword of the Spirit

- In what ways do you see Satan questioning God's Word in our culture?
- Why do you think the Sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon the church has been given? Read the following quote to help answer this question.
 - Indeed, the Sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon we have been given with which to deal the devil a decisive blow. All the rest of the Christian's armor is defensive in nature. The belt, the breastplate, the boots, the shield, and the helmet can ward off Satan's blows and defend you against his attacks, but only one thing can really puncture him, and that is the Word of God. – **Iain Duguid**
- How is the Sword of the Spirit powerful? Read Hebrews 4:12 to help answer this question.

- How are you practicing the use of God’s Word so as to be prepared when you face temptation?
- **Read 2 Timothy 2:25.** What do we learn from this verse?
- **Read and discuss** the following quote:
 - The word of God is so powerful it transforms men from the realm of falsehood to that of truth, from the realm of darkness to that of light, and from the realm of sin and death to that of righteousness and life. It changes sadness to joy, despair to hope, stagnation into growth, childishness into maturity, and failure into success. – **John MacArthur**
- **Read Romans 1:16.** How do some Christians and churches act like they are embarrassed by the gospel? How are they missing out on power?
- **Read and discuss** the following quote by Charles Spurgeon:
 - “Suppose a number of persons were to take it into their heads that they had to defend a lion, a full-grown king of beasts! There he is in the cage, and here come all the soldiers of the army to fight for him. Well, I should suggest to them, if they would not object, and feel that it was humbling to them, that they should kindly stand back, and open the door, and let the lion out! I believe that would be the best way of defending him, for he would take care of himself; and the best 'apology' for the gospel is to let the gospel out.”