



"All Out War" (Part 6: Never Retreat)

Justin Worden – October 20, 2010 – Wednesday Night Live

I. What's This Battle Coming To?

a. The All Out War Review

- i. Tonight we finish this series on "spiritual war"
 1. We've been trying to understand this "war"
 2. Is it real? Where is it? How to fight?
 - a. Satan vs. God, dark vs. light, good vs. evil! It is an "All Out War"
 3. And we have a defense... the armor of God!

Ephesians 6:10-11, 13-17 = "...Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil....Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth (week 1) and the body armor of God's righteousness (week 2). For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News (week 3), so that you will be fully prepared. In every battle, you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan (week 4). Put on salvation as your helmet (last week), and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

b. The All Out War Weaponry

- i. We've talked about all the armor, the defense
- ii. This is the only weapon mentioned (no other weapons)! The "Sword!"
 1. "Word of God" = "The Bible"
- iii. This is what it is all about!
 1. When I read God's Word – I can tell
 - a. As a husband, dad, pastor, etc...

II. What Is The Bible?

a. God's Word

- i. God, through the Holy Spirit, spoke to His people to write this "love letter" to us.

b. God's Gift

- i. The best kind of gift! Like my iPod last Christmas!
- ii. You love Christmas? See your face when you get the best gift? = Wow! Unbelievable! Awesome!!

c. Matchless

- i. No other book like it! Every year = best-seller!
- ii. 1500+ years, 40 authors, matchless = consistent!

d. Flawless

- i. Not one error (no matter what my New Testament professor from FSC, Dr. Willis, says)

e. Instructional

- i. Instruction manual for life! (Guys need directions too.)
- ii. Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth

f. Fresh

- i. New every day! Like watching a movie 100+ times and you notice something you didn't see before...
- ii. Speaks to us new each day!

g. Infinite

- i. Timeless... never gets old, always applies to you!
- ii. "How To Win A Sword Fight" Video (YouTube, 2:01)
 1. The sword is so vital to the battle
 2. When you don't have it, you are in trouble!!



III. Why Is The Bible Vital To My Life?

It gives me...

a. Strength To Overcome **HOPELESSNESS**

- i. Some of you have gone through some seriously difficult situations! Lost all hope?
 1. We feel hopeless and try to find hope in other things: cutting, drugs, drinking, sex, overly involved in activities (sports or whatever), pleasing the crowd, etc...
 2. God says, "if you want strength, I'll give it":

ii. "Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. They give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises." (Rom 15:4)

1. Wait patiently, God's timing (trust His Word)

b. Standards To Make **RIGHT DECISIONS**

- i. Some of you have made some bad decisions
- ii. Where do you get your standards for your decisions?
- iii. We need to base our decisions on His Word!



1. "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do." (2 Tim 3:16-17)
2. He's protecting us because He loves us!

c. Truth To Reveal The REAL ME

- i. Everybody wants to know who they really are?
- ii. "For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are." (Hebrews 4:12)
- iii. It may hurt (it may cut), but it will strengthen you!

d. Nourishment To Grow SPIRITUALLY HEALTHY

- i. "But Jesus told him, 'No! The Scriptures say, People need more than bread for their life; they must feed on every word of God.'" (Matthew 4:4)
- ii. No matter how much "stuff" you get, there is still this void you have in your life. It's a God-shaped hole!
- iii. Some of you are "starving" yourselves... only time you are "feeding" is on Wednesdays/Sundays!

IV. How Do I Make The Bible Vital In My Life?

I must...

a. Desire GOD'S INPUT

- i. You need the "desire" to learn & grow! Want it!

b. Develop A READING PLAN

- i. How to daily feed on God's Word
- ii. Like my phone gives me a "reading plan" (YouVersion)

c. Designate A TIME AND A PLACE

- i. Maybe not the morning, but find a quiet place!

d. Dig INTO GOD'S WORD

- i. Find a version you can understand & read away!!
- ii. www.BibleGateway.com (all versions, anytime)

e. Determine TO BATTLE CONFUSION

- i. You are going to miss a day, battle through/keep on!
 1. Satan wants you confused! Fight him!!!
- ii. "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." (Psalm 119:11)

One last thought: Put on the full armor of God and hold tight to your weapon . . . the WORD OF GOD

Tupos Student Ministries Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 (Pt. 6 – Conclusion)

Lesson Theme: Spiritual Warfare / Armor of God

Lesson Objective: Tonight we will conclude our study of Spiritual Warfare, and examine the most powerful part of our armor... our weapon (for offense, not just defense)... God's Word (our Sword)!

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 6:11-14** = "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes... In addition to all this, take up... the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (vv. 11 & 16-17, NIV)

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever fought with a sword? How hard/easy is it?
2. What's the best way to practice with your "Sword" (God's Word)?
3. When can you spend more time reading the Word daily?

Prayer Time: Ask God to help you spend more time in His Word!!!



"All Out War"

(Part 5: Protecting Your Mind)

Justin Worden – October 13, 2010 – Wednesday Night Live

I. Get Ready For The Battle

a. What We Know About War

- i. We're in this series all about "war"
 1. We know about other people's wars (like the Iraq War, you study the Civil War, etc)
- ii. But we are part of this "spiritual war"
 1. Not seen, but definitely felt!
 2. If you've given your life to Christ – Satan has lost you, so the only thing he can do now is to totally make you ineffective as a Christian. (All Out War!)

Ephesians 6:10-11, 13-17 = "A final word: Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil....Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth (week 1) and the body armor of God's righteousness (week 2). For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News (week 3), so that you will be fully prepared. In every battle, you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan (last week). Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

b. Key Term Connected to Salvation: **FREEDOM**

- i. All of us have probably never known anything but freedom, so it can be hard to grasp...
- ii. What do I need to be free from? (Picture)
 1. Like hockey = penalty box (sin)

2. Separated from the game (from God)
3. Jesus steps in and pays the "penalty"!
 - a. We are free!!!!
- iii. Freedom from past—the penalty of sin
 1. Christ releases us from the "penalty box"
- iv. Freedom for present—the power of sin
 1. There's no power left... if you are "saved"!
- v. Freedom for the future—the presence of sin
 1. We will all die sometime (guaranteed)... there'll be a day where there will be NO sin!
 2. "Now that we are saved, we eagerly look forward to this freedom. For if you already have something, you don't need to hope for it." (Romans 8:24)
 3. "My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken." (Psalm 62:1-2)

c. Key Term Connected To Helmet: **MIND**

- i. You'd never go into battle without a helmet! (Picture)
- ii. My mind needs protection from . . .
 1. Lies, half truths, & false hopes of the world
 2. Impurity
 3. Self-deception (convince yourself you are something you are not)
 - a. The cutter believes pain is control.
 - b. The beautiful believe that appearance leads to intimacy.
 - c. The flatterer believes empty words build relationships.
 - d. The boastful believes triumphs and trophies lead to acceptance.
 - e. The smart believe they're better than everyone else.
 - f. The lonely believe that true friendship is impossible.
 - g. The achievers believe that victory leads to significance.
4. Doubt
 - a. Raise your hand if you know you are saved, but you have had times when you have doubted your salvation (strategy of Satan!)
5. Discouragement
 - a. Discouragement is huge!!! You?

iii. "But let us who live in the light think clearly... wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation." (1 Thessalonians 5:8)



II. My Part In The Battle

- a. **I Must Accept God's FREE GIFT of Salvation**
- Remember when I gave Kelsie \$5 = free!!
 - "God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God." (Ephesians 2:8)
 - It is simple = You believe, you belong!

Justification.....Sanctification.....Glorification
(just as if I never sinned).....(God's not done with me yet).....(Will be glorified in Him)

- "I myself no longer live, but Christ lives in me. So I live my life in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)
- b. **I Must Examine What I SEE AND HEAR**
- To grow spiritually = you need to be wise about what you watch and what you listen to!
 - "The spiritual person, on the other hand, can assess the value of everything..." (1 Corinthians 2:15)
- c. **I Must Allow God's Word To GUIDE ME**
- "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me." (Psalm 119:133)
 - Is the Bible just part of your life or is it guiding your life? (Your "sword")
 - I hope you want to keep growing!!!
- d. **I Must Be Inspired Toward Continual GROWTH**
- "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation..." (1 Peter 2:2).



"One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, "My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all. "One is Evil - It is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. "The other is Good - It is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion and faith."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather: "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed." (**Email story received 08/14/10 – "Two Wolves"**)

Let's feed the light (God's side) in our minds... as we battle in this war!

Tupos Student Ministries Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 (Pt. 5)

Lesson Theme: Spiritual Warfare / Salvation

Lesson Objective: Continuing tonight in our study of Spiritual Warfare, we will examine the Helmet of Salvation. The Gospel message will be clearly presented tonight for the students to respond to.

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 6:13-17** = "Therefore put on the full armor 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... Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (vv. 13 & 17, NIV)

Discussion Questions:

- Did you learn something new tonight? If so, what?
- What is your part in the battle we are fighting?
- Share your experience of when you accepted salvation for the very first time (your testimony).

Prayer Time: Thank the Lord for your salvation!
If you don't believe you are saved... let's take care of it tonight!!!



"All Out War" (Part 4: Flame-Resistant Faith)

Justin Worden – October 6, 2010 – Wednesday Night Live

I. Detecting My Part In The War

a. Investigating Spiritual Warfare

- i. Many of you are wondering what "spiritual warfare" is... Is it real? What is it? Where is it?
- ii. No matter who you are, every one of us goes through a spiritual battle...
 1. Satan attacks us when we are tired and worn out... this when he tries to get us!
 2. If you've given your life to Christ – Satan has lost you = He wants to totally make you ineffective as a Christian. (War!)

b. Understanding Spiritual Armor

- i. We're getting suited up for these battles:

Ephesians 6:13-16 = "Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle, you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth (week 1) and the body armor of God's righteousness (week 2). For shoes, put on the peace (week 3) that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. In every battle, you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan."

- ii. What are these fiery arrows?
 1. Arrows are bad enough in a battle, but watch how much worse flaming arrows are:
 2. Video = "Flaming Arrows – Timeline" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyxHh5Yvak>)
 3. They do more damage to you... & spreads!



4. We need to be ready to defend and attack!
5. "Shield" = important (picture)
 - b. Soldiers would hold a sword (right hand) & shield (left hand) = to be able to attack & defend... as well as defend the person to their left!

II. Defending My Faith

a. What Are These Fiery Arrows?

- i. Fear (Scared to become a Christian? Scared = weak)
- ii. Doubt (Others... yourselves... God)
- iii. Lies (He's the "Father of Lies"... soon we believe 'em)
- iv. Confusion (Faith vs. these fiery arrow... confusion)
- v. Temptation (Satan knows how to tempt you...)
- vi. Words (they hurt... we ask "why God?")

b. Are You Ready For These Arrows?

- i. They are coming... flying in towards us
- ii. We have to have faith as our shield! Be ready!!

III. Defining My Faith

a. Believing Is Different Than Faith

- i. Belief – "Accepting something as TRUTH"
- ii. Faith – "Giving your life to what you BELIEVE"
 1. Like skydiving = we put the chute on (believe it is there and will work), but when you jump and trust is will work (that's having faith in it)
 2. "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18)
- iii. Faith requires ACTION
 1. "So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—it is dead and useless." (James 2:17)
 2. Faith requires me to say to God = "I give myself to you, I trust in You"
 3. Only you can do that... I can not pull your parachute cord for you! It's you!

b. Why Should I Put My Faith In God?

- i. "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory." (Romans 5:1-2)

c. What Are the Benefits of Faith?

- i. Faith gives us:
 - 1. Peace (peace beyond measure)
 - 2. Confidence (we are somebody in him)
 - 3. Joy (more than happiness)
 - 4. Security (no matter what, God's got me)

"I do not want merely to possess a faith, I want a faith that possesses me." (C Kingsley)

"Faith takes God without any ifs." (DL Moody)

"Faith expects from God what is beyond all expectation." (Andrew Murray)

"Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible." (CTB)

- ii. We are all at different places in our faith tonight, you are probably at one of these three places:

IV. Deepening My Faith

a. If I'm Investigating My Faith, I Should:

- i. Start SMALL
- ii. Begin in one area of your life... maybe a relationship or an addiction or a problem with gossip
- iii. "Even if you had faith as small as a mustard seed," the Lord answered, "you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May God uproot you and throw you into the sea,' and it would obey you!" (Luke 17:6)

b. If I'm Struggling With My Faith, I Should:

- i. Ask FOR HELP
- ii. God puts things in our path to strengthen us in our faith (ask God to help you understand those things)
- iii. You have to have your own faith, you can't have your parents' faith
 - 1. Ask God for help and ask others for help!
 - 2. Some shields were made where they can lock together, side by side (community)
 - a. We need each other! Stronger!

c. If I'm Sold Out in My Faith, I Should:

- i. Remember God's FAITHFULNESS
 - 1. When times get hard, remember He will see you though it...
 - 2. "But be sure to fear the LORD and sincerely worship him. Think of all the wonderful things he has done for you." (1 Sam 12:24)

Believing isn't enough . . . you have to make THE DECISION to define, defend, and deepen your faith....

Tupos Student Ministries

Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2010 (Pt. 4)

Lesson Theme: Spiritual Warfare / Faith

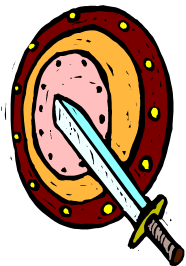
Lesson Objective: Continuing tonight in our study of Spiritual Warfare, we will examine the Shield of Faith. Defending our faith as well as defining our faith will be key points for tonight!

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 6:13-16** = "Therefore put on the full armor 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... In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." (vv. 13 & 16, NIV)

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Will you be honest about making a decision to define, defend, and deepen your faith in God tonight?
- 2. How are you going to practically live out your faith tomorrow?

Prayer Time: Have the students speak their faith out by each talking with God. Allow extra time for prayer (in faith) tonight.





"All Out War" (Part 3: A Peace Fix)

Justin Worden – September 29, 2010 – Wednesday Night Live

Video = "The Weight I Carry" (Igniter Media Vol. 8, 1:54)

I. Suiting Up For Battle

a. This Is An All Out War

- i. We are in a war (spiritual) and we need to be fully prepped to fight! Need our full armor of God on!
- ii. Our armor so far:
 - 1. Belt of Truth (2 weeks ago) = knowing what's right and wrong!
 - 2. Breastplate of Righteousness (last week) = being right with God and right with others!
- iii. Clothing parts of your body – a spiritual metaphor – and tonight we are clothing our feet.
 - 1. Insignificant part, right? No!

Ephesians 6:10-14 = "A final word: Be strong with the Lord's mighty power.

Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil . . . Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle, you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared." (Ephesians 6:10-11, 13-15).



- iv. The apostle Paul (author) goes for the feet... why cover the feet? Such a wimpy little part of the body:
 - 1. Ever had a foot injury? = (Picture)
 - 2. Foot injuries = bad news for all of you!

- 3. You can't stand up in battle, you can't even walk on the battle field! (Important!)
- b. **This War Needs Some Peace**
 - i. To stand strong = you need peace!
 - ii. If I took you out to lunch this weekend and asked you face-to-face: Want a life of peace? = How would you respond? (Of course you want a life of peace)
 - 1. Bumper stickers all over = peace! (Pictures)
 - iii. Where do your friends find peace? = Drinking / drugs / video games / parties / hog hunting / etc...
 - 1. How do you define peace? What is it?

II. A Picture of Peace

- i. What the Bible says peace is all about!
- ii. Peace defined = "absence of war"
- a. **Peace with GOD**
 - i. "...by him [Jesus] God reconciled everything to himself. He [God] made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of his blood on the cross." (Colossians 1:20)
- b. **Peace with OTHERS**
 - i. "Do your part to live in peace with everyone." (Romans 12:18)
 - ii. "Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you." (2 Corinthians 13:11)
- c. **Peace with SELF**
 - i. "...if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace." (Romans 8:6)
 - ii. [Jesus said] "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give isn't like the peace the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid." (John 14:27)

God's peace is very different! More than the world (or anything in it) can bring peace to your life!

- i. Peace doesn't mean that life won't be complicated & you won't have pain, peace means that in the midst of complication or pain, you will have confidence and contentment!
 - 1. So, what keeps us from having peace?

III. Problems Without Peace

a. Enemies of Peace (write these down):

- i. Stress
- ii. Noise
- iii. Information overload (TV, internet, 100s of channels)
- iv. Relational conflict (just get rid of people)
- v. Me (you... we are unsettled about our past, we are uneasy about our present, and we are unsure about our future)



- b. **Typical Ways We Battle Enemies** (of peace):
 - i. Worry, Control, Purchase, or Procrastination
 - ii. No matter what you do... you will not find peace!
 - 1. In drugs, drinking, friends, "stuff"
 - iii. Or... pursue a "peace fix"

IV. A Spiritual "Fix"

a. Where To Get Our Peace "Fix"

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. And now, dear brothers and sisters, let me say one more thing as I close this letter. **Fix** your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and heard from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you."
(Philippians 4:6-9)

F

- i. Okay... I want peace! How do I get it?
- b. **Filter the NOISE (v.8)**
 - i. Sound and busyness... (Don't delete, but filter)
 - ii. Sometimes we just need to "unplug" (try "fasting"!)
- c. **Investigate For TRUTH (v.9)**
 - i. **Investigate** = if God's the answer for peace, I outta find out more about that. Get to know more...
 - ii. Jesus = "Prince of Peace" (Get to know Him more...)

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- d. **X-Out the ENEMIES of Peace (vv.6-7)**
 - i. "X-out" = not get rid of it / delete
 - ii. **X = Christ** (replace those enemies with Christ)
 - iii. "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us." (Romans 5:1)

X

- iv. I know you guys need peace in your life... peace is attractive to everyone!
 - 1. You have a choice: Keep playing games and **AVOID** peace or pursue God's **FIX** and experience His peace.

Close your eyes = imagine Jesus saying this to you! = [Jesus] "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me, and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me, and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Tupos Student Ministries

Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, September 29, 2010 (Pt. 3)

Lesson Theme: Spiritual Warfare / Peace

Lesson Objective: Continuing tonight in our study of Spiritual Warfare, we will examine the Shoes of Peace. Being at peace with God, with others, and with ourselves is more important than we know!

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 6:10-14** = "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes... Stand firm then... with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace." (vv. 10-11 & 14-15, NIV)

Discussion Questions:

1. Where could you use some more peace in your life?
2. Are you seriously ready to begin pursuing God's "fix" for your life and experience His peace??
3. What are some things you need to "filter" out of your life?

Prayer Time: Seek to rid your life of the things that are clouding your life up and keeping you from God's amazing peace.



(Part 2: Getting Dressed for the Right Occasion)

Justin Worden – September 22, 2010 – Wednesday Night Live

I. Putting On Your Armor For War

a. Why We Need To Be Armored Up

- i. This is about showing you some “war”-drobe
- ii. I’ve never been in a war... biggest battle I’ve been in: battle with trying to gain weigh (image), etc...
 1. We don’t even know what it’s like to be in war, but we (as Christians) are in a war, and we can’t even see it...

b. What Is Up With Spiritual Warfare (Review from last week)

- i. God the Creator vs. Satan (fallen angel)
- ii. Satan hates God and everything God is about (if you love God – Satan hates you)
- iii. If you’ve given your life to Christ–Satan has lost you
 1. He wants to totally make you ineffective as a Christian. That’s what he’s doing! (War!)

c. How To Get Dressed The “Right” Way

- i. Ephesians 6... what Paul is saying is “stay strong”
 1. Soldier illustration = put on the right gear
 2. Breastplate = body armor / chest protector
 - b. Throw baseball at chest protector?
 3. Got the right gear? = like football

Eph. 6:10-11, 13-14 = “A final word: Be strong with the Lord’s mighty power. Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil . . . Use every piece of God’s armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness”

d. What Is Significant About Righteousness

- i. Protects a vital organ = your heart (gives confidence!)
- ii. Paul connects it (putting on the armor of God) with righteousness = make us more like Christ!
 1. “Righteousness means to be right (with God) and to do right (according to God)” (Doug Fields)
- iii. This is tough – righteousness is a deep word... without righteousness as a Christian, you become a fake! Be right and act right!
 1. You can only “act right” for so long... but you MUST “be right”
 2. Why do I even care about righteousness?



II. Benefits Of Wearing The Breastplate of Righteousness

a. An Indescribable Life of PROSPERITY and HONOR

- i. A life that is better than you ever dreamed of (more than money or fame)... it’s having God’s favor (honored by God) on your life!
- ii. “He who pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor” (Proverbs 21:21).
- iii. God has blessed me because I have tried to honor God and live righteous... Thank You, Lord!

b. A Constant FILLING of God’s Spirit

- i. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (Matthew 5:6).

c. A SENSE of Peace and Confidence

- i. You will have peace (not matter what!)
- ii. “The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever” (Isaiah 32:17).

d. A Christ-Like LIFE

- i. “...throw off your old evil nature and your former way of life, which is rotten through and through, full of lust and deception. Instead... you are a new person, created in God’s likeness—righteous, holy, and true” (Eph. 4:22-24).

III. Living Righteously In The Midst of The Daily War

a. I Must Understand MY NEED for Righteousness

- i. You are not righteous by nature (read Psalm 51)
- ii. You do not become righteous by being good
- iii. You become righteous because of what Jesus did

“But now God has shown us a different way of being right in his sight... We are made right in God’s sight when we trust in Jesus Christ to take away our sins. And we all can be saved in this same way, no matter who we are or what we have done. For all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard. Yet now, God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty . . . We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us.” (Romans 3:21-25)

b. I Must Appreciate THE DEPTH of Righteousness

- i. Exchange? = \$1 for what's in my pocket!! (A penny)
- ii. Give you \$10 = for no reason, just because!

Imputed righteousness: given free of charge without any effort on my part

"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory" (Romans 5:1-2).

Imparted righteousness: God's power working in me & my cooperation with God
"All of us! Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful as God enters our lives and we become like him" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

c. I Must Daily Approach God's Presence With ANTICIPATION

- i. You want to live a life of righteousness? – God wants you too also! (He is stoked about you & Him)
- ii. "So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it" (Hebrews 4:16).
- iii. Anticipation = like getting a gift on X-Mas morning

d. I Must Obey God's DIRECTION For Righteous Living

- i. Like GPS in your car... trust it, like trusting God!
- ii. My way vs. God's way = battle ever since 10th grade
- iii. "The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you...So, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation whatsoever to do what your sinful nature urges you to do" (Romans 8:11-12).

e. I Must Regularly EVALUATE If I'm Wearing the Breastplate of Righteousness

- i. Stop = ask yourself: "Am I living right?" (Church)
- ii. Best way... Did I act "in love"? (LOVE)
- iii. "For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom" (Galatians 5:14).

Begin your tomorrow like this prayer = "Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).

When we walk in righteousness . . . we can live WITH CONFIDENCE

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Tupos Student Ministries Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 (Pt. 2)

Lesson Theme: Spiritual Warfare / Armor of God

Lesson Objective: Continuing tonight in our study of Spiritual Warfare, we will examine the Breastplate of Righteousness. Learning to live righteous is a tough thing, and we can only do it in Christ.

Lesson Text: **Ephesians 6:10-14** = "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes... with the breastplate of righteousness in place." (vv. 10-11 & 14, NIV)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is a breastplate such an important piece of armor?
2. What is one practical way you can live righteous this week?
3. If you had a "clean heart" (Psalm 51:10), how would your life look different this school year?

Prayer Time: Ask the Lord to help you walk in righteousness.



"All Out War" (Part 1: Truth Holds Up)

Justin Worden – September 15, 2010 – Wednesday Night Live

I. Spiritual Warfare Is Real

a. It Began In The Beginning

- i. We're diving into something huge!
- ii. Origin of Spiritual warfare
 1. God the Creator vs. Satan (fallen angel)
 2. Satan hates God and everything God is about (if you love God – Satan hates you)
- iii. There is a real spiritual battle happening = if you've given your life to Christ – He has lost you
 1. He will do everything in his power to knock you down (Spiritual battle all around you)

b. It Is Based In The Bible

- i. "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful." (2 Timothy 4:7)
- ii. The Bible understands there is a WAR going on... words like "capture, surrender, retreating, armor"... there's a war happening! Why do we bypass it?

II. Armor of God Is Necessary

a. We Need It

- i. Will you commit to being here each week (for these 6 weeks) and get every part of this armor?

Ephesians 6:11 = "Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil." (NLT)

- ii. Christian or non-Christian = it's essential!

III. Truth Is Most Important

a. Truth Holds Up More Than Just Your Pants

- i. Honesty holds up your whole life
- ii. The "Belt" of Truth (first piece mentioned)
 1. "Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth" (Ephesians 6:13-14, NLT)

b. There Is A Battle For Truth

- i. Truth isn't encouraged in our society
 1. Survey says = 91% of all Americans lie! (So did the others)
 2. Sociologist says that you either hear or see over 200 lies everyday!
 3. Like TV or magazine ads / like what you say on Facebook or MySpace
- ii. Truth isn't evident in our world
 1. It's deeper than our society... it's our world!
 2. Lie-Detector creator, Leonard Keeler (interviewed 25,000 peeps = whole world lies!) = it is our nature, who we are (Gen.)
- iii. Truth isn't expressed in our spiritual lives
 1. This is a spiritual battle (God, Father of Truth, vs. Satan, Father of Lies)
 2. Satan will tell you anything you wanna hear = and we believe it!
 - a. We're too fat, we're not a good enough athlete, we're not smart enough, we'll never be anything...
 3. Why is truth so important?...



IV. The Benefits of Truth

a. Truth builds CHARACTER

- i. Dishonest = lose character! (Good reputation?)
 1. Reputation = "what other say about you"
 2. Character = "who you REALLY are"
- ii. "The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children after them." (Proverbs 20:7, NLT)

b. Truth builds SPIRITUAL DEPTH

- i. You really want to go deeper & grow in God?
 1. My daughter wants to be like me... do you really wanna be like your Father (God)?
- ii. "Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church." (Ephesians 4:15)

c. Truth builds **CONFIDENCE**

- i. "Honesty can keep you safe, but if you can't be trusted, you trap yourself." (Proverbs 11:6)
 - 1. Living a life of lies = trapping yourself!
 - a. Lies = more lies = more lies...

V. Begin A Life of Truth

a. Assess the truth in **YOUR LIFE**

- i. Be honest with yourself... who you really are!
- ii. See an issue... attack it head on!!!
 - 1. It's not my fault? (Parents' fault or the world's fault or my friends' fault) Look at yourself!
 - 2. "Fools make fun of guilt, but the godly acknowledge it and seek reconciliation." (Proverbs 14:9)
- iii. Do you lie to people to make them happy? Do you pass on gossip? Do you exaggerate? Do you just keep your mouth shut (hold the truth in)? Do you disguise the truth? Do you use your time honestly?

b. Be deliberate with every **DECISION**

- i. Be honest in everything = every answer, every email, every Facebook message, every note you write
- ii. "I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there. You know I have done all this with good motives, and I have watched your people offer their gifts willingly and joyously." (1 Chronicles 29:17, NLT)
- iii. "Surely You desire integrity in the inner self, and You teach me wisdom deep within." (Psalm 51:6, HCSB)
 - 1. Living honestly all the time will get easier and easier as you become more deliberate!

c. Establish daily **ACCOUNTABILITY**

- i. "But let the Lord Jesus Christ take control of you, and don't think of ways to indulge your evil desires." (Romans 13:14)
- ii. Find someone to hold you accountable and be honest with you! Find someone to get in your face!!
- iii. When you're dishonest – tell that person to bust you!
 - 1. Lastly: When you live a life of truth . . . the truth will SET YOU FREE
 - 2. "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)



This spiritual battle is real! You have to have the right armor on!!

Tupos Student Ministries Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, September 15, 2010 (Pt. 1)

Lesson Theme: Spiritual Warfare / Truth

Lesson Objective: Tonight we begin a huge and powerful series on Spiritual Warfare... it is real and we need to be prepared. The first piece of the Armor of God (Eph 6) is the Belt of Truth!

Lesson Text: **2 Timothy 4:7** = "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (NIV)

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How often do you lie to people (friends/parents/yourself)?
- 2. How would your life be different if you lived more honestly?
- 3. Why do you think this is the first piece of "armor" listed in Ephesians 6, when putting on the Armor of God?

Prayer Time: Ask God to make you more aware of the spiritual battles around you, and to help you put on the Belt of Truth.