

# ARMOR



**GROUP STUDY**



ARMOR: Group Study

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# Week 1: Be Strong

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

## 1. PRAY

As we began this series, we declared victory in the name of Jesus. Here are some of the Scriptures that were proclaimed. (John 10:10 / James 4:7 / I John 4:4 / 2 Thessalonians 3:3 / Luke 10:19 / Romans 8:31)

Spend some time sharing any other Scriptures that speak to the victory we have in Jesus and then open up your time together declaring the victory of Jesus over our lives. In Christ, we don't fight for victory...we fight from victory!

## 2. SHARE

Every follower of Jesus has gone through various battles in their life. Some have experienced victory over these battles and some are still longing to see victory. Spend a few moments sharing about these battles in your group. Feel free to be vague but also remember that the true transparency will lead to true transformation. In this series we are going to learn how much we need each other as we will lock our shields of faith. Take some intentional time to truly share about our lives.

## 3. STUDY

The story of the mighty warrior Samson is found in Judges 13-16 and is the perfect illustration of the power and strength of God. In this first week, we have been given the challenge to be strong. Remember, "The What" was never meant to be accomplished without "The Who". We are to "be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might". Let's study about the life of Samson.

In Judges 13-15, we read about the life of Samson. God gives a barren woman from Israel a son named Samson who will begin the work of delivering God's people from their enemies. He commands that Samson will be a Nazirite and must not drink wine or beer, or to eat anything unclean. He must also never cut his hair. Read Judges 13:1-5.

- **Why would God place these requirements/restrictions upon Samson's life? (hint: to remind Samson that his life was empowered by God and for God) Why is this important for Samson and why would this be important for us? (hint: to be constantly reminded of the greatness of God and our need of him)**

Samson is born and grows up honoring the Lord's command. At this time, the Philistines were ruling and oppressing Israel. In Judges 14 and 15, we read about how the Spirit of the Lord empowered Samson to kill a lion with his bare hands and Samson also kills many Philistines. One example of this strength is in Judges 15:14-16.

In Judges 16, Samson falls in love with Delilah. Throughout his life, Samson had shown pride by flirting with temptation. This temptation ultimately led to the loss of his strength. After multiple failed attempts by Delilah, Samson finally shares about his Nazirite vow. Read Judges 16:16-20.

- **A lot of times we fall to sin because we are flirting too closely with sin. What are some ways that the enemy is trying to lead you away from your commitment to love God and people in this season? If you are willing, share some times when you have allowed temptation to lead you away from the Lord and his church. If you are currently struggling with temptation of sin, share your need for people in your life to keep you focused on living for Jesus.**

We are so thankful that in Christ we might lose some battles, but we cannot lose the war. Jesus has, is, and will be completely victorious for all eternity. At the end of Samson's life, the Lord still uses him in a powerful way. Despite Samson's failure, God still heard and answered his prayers. Read Judges 16:28-31.

- **God ends up using Samson, despite Samson. What are some ways that God has used you despite your unfaithfulness to him? Be authentic and celebrate God's faithfulness in each other's lives.**

Although the story of Samson is tragic, it is also a story that points to the Gospel. Samson might have delivered a few of God's people, but he ultimately failed. Jesus came to do what Samson could not do. The same is true for you and me. We are never called to be strong in our own name and power. We are called to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Thank you Jesus for your victory in our lives!

#### **4. RESPOND**

This week we are encouraging our groups to really think through people in their lives that would benefit from this Armor series. A lot of people are going through a lot of things right now and this series can become a real encouragement and time of equipping for them. People need to hear that they don't have to only be strong. Jesus wants to be their strength. Close out your time sharing with your group about some people in your life that would benefit from this series and then prayerfully make a commitment to invite them to your group or one of our worship gatherings.