

ARMOR



GROUP STUDY



ARMOR: Group Study

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Week 5: The Belt of Truth

14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth,

1. PRAY

This week we have started to put on the whole armor of God. First up is the belt of truth. Our hope and prayer would be that all of us would be a people who love truth and who love living out the truth. Open up your time this week by reading in prayer, Psalm 119:1-16, 97-105. Let's ask for the Lord to help us fall in love with Truth.

2. SHARE

Before we discuss how to grow in knowing God's truth, let's spend some time sharing how the truth of God's Word is getting manipulated, changed, and even rejected in our world today. Consider reading Ephesians 4:14 again. Our lives are constantly being tossed by the distractions of this lying world. Try and be specific about your life and not just talk about the general challenges in our world today. Remember that when we truly make a commitment to walk His truth, we will face adversity. This adversity is not flesh and blood but is spiritual. As we share these examples, let's speak truth in love and let's always stay hopeful that Jesus can redeem anyone who is currently rejecting Him and His truth.

3. STUDY

The belt of truth is the first and most important piece of armor because it is the foundational piece that holds everything else together. Much like it is impossible for a soldier to fully operate effectively without a belt, It is also impossible for you to fully operate the armor of God without this belt. For example, you cannot have righteousness without the truth of God's Word.

- Think about the belt of truth in relation to the other five pieces of armor. Why is the belt of truth essential to the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the spirit?

After receiving this belt of truth which comes by grace, through faith, in Christ alone, you must know His truth. Our prayer is that you love God's Word and that you love living it out, but truly knowing the truth takes intentionality and commitment. The following summary was written by Pastor Dustin Turner, who serves as the Lead Pastor of Vintage Church New Orleans. He has created a great resource for helping us grow in our ability to know His truth. Knowing His truth requires constant observation, deep examination, Spirit illumination, and personal application.

- Take some time to walk through each of these ways that we can know His truth. Get creative with this outline and be specific on how you can apply this action points in your life. Feel free to also share examples of other ways that you have grown in your knowledge of truth.

How to Study God's Word?

Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your law. - Psalm 119:18

Why study God's Word?

- You need the Bible. The Scriptures are your spiritual food (Mt. 4:4). The Word of God is the guide and light for your life (Ps. 119:105). The Bible is everything you need to be a man of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Without the Word in your life, you will fail miserably.

Knowing His Truth requires...

Constant Observation - faithfully we look.

- Cultivate the Context - What surrounds the text? - READ THE WORD "...from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings..." 2 Timothy 3:15
- Locating the Historical Context - "CONTEXT, CONTEXT, CONTEXT."
- What precedes/follows this passage? (events, conversations, circumstances, etc.) Who are the characters/What is the main topic in this passage?
- When and why was this passage/book written?
- To whom is the author speaking to? (Believers/Unbelievers/Both)

Deep Examination - passionately we dig

- Search the Scriptures - What does the text say? - STUDY THE WORD
- “Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the LORD...” Ezra 7:10
- Bridging the Testaments - “The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible.”
- What does the rest of Scripture say about these characters/doctrines/subjects?
- Is this specific story mentioned elsewhere in the Bible?
- Are the characters found elsewhere in the Bible?
- What are the key words/themes in the passage? (Greek/Hebrew word studies)

Spirit Illuminating - supernaturally we find

- Discover the Diamonds - What is the Spirit saying? - EXPERIENCE THE WORD
- “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth...” John 16:13
- Seeing Beyond the Surface - “Read the Bible with your knees.”
- How does this passage relate to the bigger story of redemption?
- Is this passage a specific symbol/type/allegory of Christ/N.T. truth?
- Does your interpretation match the rest of Scripture?

Personal Application - humbly we obey

- Believe the Bible - What must I do? - FOLLOW THE WORD
- “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only...” James 1:22
- What is the Holy Spirit telling me from the Word? In what specific areas of my life?
- What specific steps must I now take to fully obey what the Lord is telling me?

4. RESPOND

As we are challenging ourselves to put on and take up the whole armor of God this week, we have learned that it is absolutely essential for us to receive His truth, know His truth, and walk His Truth. We have just learned some strategic ways that we can know the Word of God, what are some strategic ways that we can walk out the Word of God. Close our time today by breaking up into smaller groups with the purpose of putting together a game plan for this next week or even month. Write down some specific ways that you can walk together in truth and then pray for the Lord to empower you to love truth and live out truth this week. (Examples: memorizing a Scripture, meeting up at a coffee shop to walk through a passage of Scripture, plan a time to go and share the truth of God with people in our city, commit to hold each other accountable to walk in the ways of the Lord, etc.)