

# ARMOR



**GROUP STUDY**



ARMOR: Group Study

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# Week 4: Get Ready

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

## 1. PRAY

A lot of times our expectation determines our experience. As we GET READY for this study, let's expect great things from the Lord. Open up today's group time in prayerful expectation and belief. Go ahead and declare the victory that we see in Ephesians 6:13. In Christ, we know that we will STAND FIRM. (\*remember that we can ask the Lord to help our unbelief if we are struggling. He will provide!)

## 2. SHARE

The last two weeks we considered Satan, our opponent. Satan and his demonic realm rarely take a day off and a lot of times his attacks come without warning or when we least expect it. Much like we have just prayed in great expectation for God to move, let's take a few moments raising our awareness of this spiritual battle. The enemy would love for us to remain in the dark when it comes to his attacks. Before we look at a passage that compels us to get ready, what are some ways that the enemy has attacked you without warning or when you least expected it? Where are you vulnerable to the attacks of the enemy?

\*Make a list, put it in your bible, memorize it, share it with a brother or sister in Christ, and GET READY so "that you may be able to withstand in the evil day."

## 3. STUDY

In Ephesians 6:13 we learn about the evil day. The evil day refers to the time when the enemy unleashes great temptation or when you are violently assaulted by the spiritual forces of evil. Remember that this battle is inevitable, spiritual, and relentless. Because of this, we have to get ready. Much like Scripture talks about evil and darkness, Scripture also encourages us to stay alert and live in the light because the day of the Lord is also coming. No one knows when our life might end or when Jesus might return and because of this, we need to GET READY.

## **I Thessalonians 5:2**

For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

As aware as we need to be of the day of evil, we need to also get ready for the day of the Lord.

Open up your bibles to I Thessalonians 5:4-11. In this passage the Apostle Paul challenges followers of Christ to live as sons of the day and light and to get ready for the Lord. The enemy loves to bring evil days upon us when we least expect it. Let's turn our focus away from the enemy and toward Jesus. Paul shares that believers should more importantly live with an awareness of the day of the Lord. We will be held accountable for how we lived as followers of Christ. Take some time to read this challenge together and discuss the following questions.

- In vs. 5-6, we are reminded that followers of Christ are children of the day and light. A Christians life should look different from a non-Christians life. What are the characteristics of a life that is walking in the light? Be specific and consider thinking about your neighbor. What should your neighbor recognize in your life if you are a child of the day?
- When we believe in Jesus, he empowers us to behave like one of his followers. By no means can we walk in perfection like Jesus, but Jesus does empower us and expects of us to walk like Him. This is our very important duty and stewardship as a Christian as we are called to be a witness of the gospel. The enemy can never take away our salvation but he can mess with our witness for Christ. So many people today have rejected Jesus because of those who have professed Jesus but not walked in the light. Read I Peter 2:9-10.
- We have been saved from darkness and brought into light. In I Peter 2:9 what are some of the descriptions that are given to the church and what is their significance to our lives? (\*a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession)
- Found people, find people. How does the truth that we have been saved, called out of darkness, received mercy, and become the people of God impact our motivation and commitment to walk in the light especially when it comes to being a witness for Christ? (\*think about how Jesus forgave and loved you and let this inspire you to love Jesus and this world)

- Paul encourages us in vs. 6-8 to “keep awake and be sober” instead of “falling asleep and getting drunk”. He then shares that we need to put on the breast-plate of faith and love (righteousness) and the helmet of the hope of salvation. Discuss some ways that the church provides ways for followers of Christ to keep awake and sober. Take these ideas and begin to share how you and your group can start to serve each other as you gather and scatter throughout the week. In vs. 11, Paul shares that we should encourage one another and build one another up. Get specific and active with a plan. This will also be our RESPOND challenge this week.

#### **4. RESPOND**

We have just challenged each other to walk as children of the day and light. Let's live the Gospel, serve the city, and be the church. Close out your time by writing out some ways that you and your group can do the following this week (I Thessalonians 5:11).

- Encourage one another
  - Examples: create a group text to stay connected, support someone in your group that has a special event, etc.
- Build one another up
  - Examples: break up into groups of two and commit to walk together during the week, challenge each other to memorize Ephesians 6:13 this week, etc.
- Love another
  - Examples: form a life group with the purpose of connecting with friends that don't follow Jesus, consider meeting a need in your community and inviting your group to come and serve, etc.