

Small Group Material - Ephesians 6

Standing Strong Together

Ephesians 6.10-24

Welcome (10 mins) What were some of your (or your children) favourite dressing up costumes? Why those?

Worship (10 mins) Play 'Lion and the Lamb' by Leeland <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9ujBoud26k>
Turn it into praise. Turn into praise that Jesus is The Lion and The Lamb

Word (30 mins) We come, finally, in our series in Ephesians to what is perhaps one of the best known images in the New Testament - the armour of God. Paul was probably in prison when he wrote this and he may have been looking at one of the soldiers as he explains to the Christians in Ephesus how they can stand firm in the face of the attacks of the evil one, the Devil.

Read Ephesians 6.10-24

- Four times in v10-14 Paul urges his readers to 'stand firm' in the battle against the Devil's strategies. What makes us, as Christians, prone to instability?
- How does the armour of God prepare us for spiritual battle? Think corporate 'us' and not just individual 'us'! Which parts are defensive weapons? Which are offensive?
- In v18-20, Paul urges all kind of prayers. How has he been a model prayer warrior throughout his letter? Cf 1.3, 1.15-17, 3.14, 5.19-20.

For discussion

- In what ways does the armour enable us to stand against evil? What piece of armour do you need the most in your life right now? What have you been struggling against lately? It can be helpful to identify the effect of 'the world, the flesh and the devil'! How does this passage help to equip you?

- Paul would have been speaking to the whole community when he wrote these words. How can we *together* use the armour?

Witness (20 mins)

Now take up the offensive weapons and pray for some of the really tough areas where the battle is fiercest.

Some suggestions: In our country: the spread of drug and gang violence, culture wars in schools, in the media, in academic institutions.

Across the world: huge inequalities in the vaccine procurement, exploitation of women and children (eg trafficking).

Personally and in families: break-down of marriages and family life, churches' lack of boldness in declaring the message.

Or, pray for the St Mary's Mission Partner who you have chosen to support as a group - or discuss which one to support.

Then pray for them. This might need some research on your part to provide some real information to pray into. The attached document has contact details.