

Unsolved Mysteries Armor of God- Session 9 Small Group Notes

Introduction:

If you were a soldier, what do you think your strengths in battle would be? What about your weaknesses?

What makes someone a strong soldier spiritually?

Discuss: Rules for the Battleground

1. The first key to spiritual victory is spiritual awareness!

- Intel on your enemy:
 - o 1. Satan has always used a three-prong attack. (1 John 2:15-17)
 - o 2. Satan is more powerful than you realize. (1 Peter 5:8)
 - o 3. Spiritual principalities are many, they are organized, and they are focused on your fall!
 - o 4. Jesus is greater (Ephesians 1:21)
- Am I living a spiritually aware life?

Explain: Scripture does not go into a lot of detail about the dynamics of spiritual warfare, but it indicates that spiritual warfare is real and that believers need to be ready to do battle with Satan and his demons on a daily basis. Satan considers the mind and will of the believer to be territory he can influence, even though it belongs to God. Thus, the battle is never over in life.

Ask:

How would you face each day differently if you recognized you were always under attack?

What must a believer do to be strengthened by the Lord?

2. The strong don't survive!

- Read Ephesians 6:10, 2 Corinthians 12:10

- We will never stand in the power of God until we are daily in the presence of God.
- We will never stand in the power of God until we take seriously the holiness of God.
- We will never stand in the power of God until we submit to the plan of God.
- Where does my strength lie?

Explain: Victory in spiritual warfare demands strength that is greater than the enemy, meaning it must come from God, not ourselves. Paul called on believers of his day to become stronger through the Lord's strength and then asked them to recognize that God provides what they needed to stand against the devil. Today, many believers act as if they have within themselves the strength, they need to resist evil. When we understand that it is God's armor, we put on that gives us hope to face the battles.

Ask:

Why is it a struggle to keep our spiritual armor on at all times?

How does knowing that the battle has already been won affect the way you fight?

3. What is uncovered is a target

- Read Ephesians 6:11, 14-17
- Unforgiveness, anger, laziness, greed, and lust can all be uncovered areas where Satan will enter and begin the dismantling process
- What is one uncovered area in my life today?

Explain: When we accepted Christ, we joined an army of Christian soldiers. When I try to live outside of the army, I am exposed to attacks more than if I embrace accountability from others to help guard my walk with Christ.

Ask:

What are the spiritual realities that coincide with the pieces of armor in verses 14-17?

Which of these three actions (active trust in God's power; hope of future salvation; applying God's Word to the situation) is the most challenging for you? Why?

4. Be mindful of friendly fire

- Ephesians 6:12
- Fighting with people could be one of life's greatest waste of time
- With whom or what am I fighting the wrong battle?

Explain: The believer's responsibility, once clad in God-given armor, is to stand. We need not flee the devil, but rather we are to boldly hold the fortress of our own souls. We do not face a physical army (flesh and blood, human beings). We face a spiritual army. Therefore, knowing who the real enemy is, impacts the way we encourage one another in the church.

Ask:

What truths in God's Word "hold you together" when the enemy attacks with lies? What truths hold you to others?

How does being with God's people encourage you? How does it prepare you to go back out and fight the battle?

5. The best defense is a good offense!

- Ephesians 6:16-124
- Living your life constantly on "defense" will ultimately spell destruction.
- How is God calling you to engage the enemy?

Explain: God has given us everything we need, but we must choose to utilize the things He's supplied to keep us safe. We must also choose to engage in the battle. Often we feel that our attacks are only meant for when something happens and yet the Lord may be calling us to be on the offense in areas that the enemy has tried to hold onto for too long.

Ask:

What is an area of your life that needs to be conquered by the Lord? How does today's discussion encourage you to do so?

What can you do to help others in the church be more prepared to go out and fight?