

Battle Lines

June 1 | Group Guide

Introduction and questions (25 minutes)

Last week, we began a new, three-week sermon series called Battle Lines, focusing on the concept of spiritual warfare as described in Ephesians 6:10-18.

- John Eldredge writes, “You live in a world at war. Spiritual attack must be a category you think in, or you’ll misunderstand much of what happens in life.” How does this perspective resonate with you? Do you see spiritual warfare as a lens for understanding life’s challenges. Why or why not?
- Gary compared preparing for spiritual warfare to how the U.S. Army trains for battle. What practices or habits do you use to equip yourself for life’s spiritual and personal challenges? Are those aligned with the “armor” that Paul wants believers to ready themselves with? What are you missing without those pieces of armor? What would you gain if you donned them?
- Gary also mentioned that when we Christians wear God’s armor for us, we need not fear the enemy, we need not retreat from battle, and we need not make excuses. Which of these are you most prone to in your life – fear, retreat, or excuses? Why? How might God’s armor help you withstand these things?
- What else was meaningful to you from God’s Word shared this weekend? Explain.

Split into smaller groups to read Scripture, discuss, and pray (25 minutes).

For this group session, you’ll spend some time reflecting on the different pieces that constitute the “armor of God.”

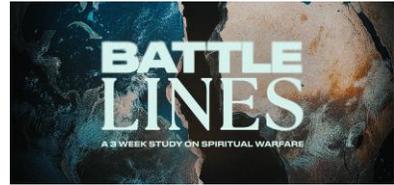
Read: Have someone read **Ephesians 6:11-17** out loud. Encourage everyone to follow along in their own Bibles, taking in each word and phrase.

Discuss: Which of these pieces of armor is most needed in your life right now? Why?

Pray: Have someone read the passage again. Once finished, pray for the person on your right with special attention in your prayer for them given to the piece of armor they feel most in need of.

Memorize Scripture (5 minutes).

One way we can arm ourselves is by hiding God’s Word in our hearts. Before coming back



together as a large group, and as we spend these three weeks studying Ephesians 6:10-18, let's take a few minutes to memorize the next couple of verses in this passage. Pick up from where you left off last week. Memorize one or two verses more.

Work individually or divide into pairs to memorize.

Note: A more extensive memorization and deep dive experience can be found in the daily devotionals available at thecreek.org/sermons.

Finish with prayer (10 minutes).

Come back together as a large group and share prayer requests with one another. End your time by having someone pray for those things shared with the group.