

Small group optional guide: The Armour of God (Part 2)

UP; we grow in our love for Jesus through the word & worship

WORD: key scriptures: Ephesians 6:10–15

Christian life is spiritual warfare.

Believers are born into a battle not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of evil. Victory is assured through Christ, but we must actively engage.

Jesus declared “It is finished” on the Cross, completing His work, but we must contend for our inheritance by fighting the good fight of faith (1 Tim 6:12), taking territory spiritually as Israel did physically (Deut 1:8, 2:24–25).

The enemy resists the advancement of God’s Kingdom through organized spiritual opposition (2 Cor 10:3–5).

We must be vigilant because passive believers become sitting targets: “If you are casual, you can become a casualty.” But despite fierce opposition, we fight as victors, not victims, because Christ has made us more than conquerors (Rom 8:37).

Key to this fight is putting on the Armour of God (Eph 6:10–18). The shield of faith protects against flaming darts of doubt and lies. Faith grows by hearing God’s Word (Rom 10:17), and believers must train to rightly handle Scripture, rejecting worldly or demonic ideas. Faith also speaks God’s promises, countering lies with truth (Mark 11:23, 2 Cor 4:13).

The helmet of salvation guards our minds by reminding us of our secure identity in Christ: children of God (John 1:12), new creations (2 Cor 5:17), righteous and accepted. We must reject shame, condemnation, and the “leprosy stains” of past sins or failures, embracing God’s cleansing grace.

The sword of the Spirit, God’s Word, is our offensive weapon. “Wordlessness is powerlessness.” Skill in Scripture brings freedom (John 8:32) and victory. Submission to Jesus as Lord, the authority of His name, the power of His blood, and prayer in the Spirit are essential. The Word must be final authority in every area of life, confronting sin,

aligning relationships and training us for godly living.

Finally, we are called for preparedness and holiness. Sin must not be tamed but killed. Christians are urged to watch and pray, reject victim mentalities, resist the devil, and submit fully to Christ. The battle is the Lord’s, but we must fight under His authority, confident that victory is certain.

Application Questions:

How will we:

- 1) Daily Practice: Put on the Armour. Each day, intentionally “put on” the Armour of God through prayer, declaring your faith, reading Scripture, and guarding your mind with your identity in Christ. Memorise key verses to counter lies and doubts.
- 2) Reject Passive Christianity. Engage actively in spiritual warfare: resist sinful patterns, pray for discernment, speak God’s truth over your life and family, and take spiritual “territory” by standing firm in faith and advancing the gospel.

IN; we connect and learn to love one another

Serving Sunday: this week we have 'sign up Sunday' for our serving teams. We have 10 teams that serve us so well on a Sunday morning and even more during the week, and these teams are a vital part of church life. We want everyone to feel loved and welcomed here and that can only happen when we serve together as a church family, so we encourage everyone to serve somewhere.

OUT; we reach out to show people outside of JCC that God loves them

Pray for salvation; especially in the villages. Forest Row Please continue to pray for your neighbours to be saved, that God would open opportunities for you to share his love and invite them to experience the gospel at JCC...or at your small group!

Please pray for Lingfield and Copthorne, that JCC members who live in or around these villages would receive a gift of faith to see God move and for a small group to start in their locations.