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SIZING UP THE ENEMY

An invisible battle is taking place where you and I get the privilege of swaying the balance toward <u>victory</u> in the name of Jesus Christ.

According to Ephesians 6:12, what does it mean to put on the full armor of God?

- 1. The battle is unavoidable.
- 2. The enemy is invisible.
 - Satan is not God's peer or counterpart.
 - a. Only our God is $\underline{\text{omnipresent}}$.
 - b. Only our God is omniscient.
 - c. Only our God can \underline{work} $\underline{miracles}$.
 - d. Only our God is <u>eternal</u>.
 - Because we have a <u>relationship</u> with Jesus Christ, we are seated with Him in heavenly places.

3. The location is <u>accessible</u> .	
4. Your weapons are not <u>physical</u> .	
5. The victory is <u>irrevocable</u> .	

THE BELT OF TRUTH

The over-arching principle present in all of Satan's attacks toward us is deception .

Satan is the master illusionist.

An illusion is something that is deceiving by producing a false or misleading impression of reality .

Satan can craftily make you think that God does not mean exactly what He says.

Satan's suggestions can never stand up against the light of God's $\underline{\text{Holy}}$ $\underline{\text{Word}}$.

God's t	ruth is the <u>light</u> .
Strappi	ing on the Belt of Truth
•	Allows you to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.
•	Gives you the <u>freedom</u> you wouldn't have otherwise.
•	Restricting releases.

WEEK 3

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

<u>Unrighteousness</u> is the enemy's <u>invitation</u>.

In Ephesians 6:14, Paul says, "Your uniform is right living."

Righteousness is upright living that aligns with the expectations of God.

We should <u>affirm</u> God's standard and then <u>align</u> our behavior with His standard.

The enemy's goal is to derail the train of your behavior off of the tracks of God's truth.

The Belt of <u>Truth</u> carries the <u>weight</u> of our pursuit of <u>righteousness</u>.

The Holy Spirit of God takes up residence in you allowing you to do what you cannot do in your own power.
Sanctification is the <u>process</u> by which you are <u>molded</u> by the Holy Spirit into the image of <u>Christ</u> <u>Jesus</u> .
Righteousness is not <u>manufactured</u> . It is <u>released</u> .
The Holy Spirit's job is to chip away at every thing that doesn't look like Jesus .
Your <u>heart</u> is the <u>centerpiece</u> of your soul.
Your conscience is the <u>microphone</u> the Holy Spirit uses to allow you to hear the <u>voice</u> of God in your life.

THE SHOES OF PEACE

We have a very real, sinister enemy that is <u>invisible</u> but not fictional.

We cannot survive the <u>storms in life</u> without God's peace.

Satan knows that where there is no peace there is also no $\underline{\text{victory}}$.

God's peace

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- gives us a firm grip which we need in a world that is not firm.
- gives us stability.
- allows us to keep our <u>footing</u> when everything around us is swirling.
- will help to keep us sane.

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:6-7).

When God's <u>peace</u> is locked in your life, it will become your <u>guard</u> and <u>protector</u>.

God's peace is an inner <u>tranquility</u> and <u>calmness</u> of the soul.

In Jesus Christ, we have peace with God.

Thanksgiving activates peace.

Trust fuels thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving activates peace.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful (Col. 3:15).

Peace is not only your <u>guard</u>, it is also your <u>guide</u>. You've got shoes so you can move forward.

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

The Greek word for <u>faith</u> used in James 2, *pistis*, is the same word used in the Book of Ephesians.

Active faith is a shield.

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Faith reveals a reliance on God.

Faith is what you say you believe in action.

Faith is when you act like God is telling you the truth.

We will never see the <u>benefits</u> of our faith and our relationship with God unless we are willing to marry faith with our actions.

Faith says <u>less</u> about you and <u>more</u> about what you really believe to be true about God.
Because God is <u>faithful</u> , you and I can have <u>active</u> faith.
What God has called us to, He will <u>equip</u> us for.
The enemy sends fiery javelins into your life to <u>distract</u> you.
<u>The Faith Place</u> is stepping into a situation or circumstance where you put yourself into a position for God to have to <u>come</u> <u>through</u> .

THE HELMET OF SALVATION

Your salvation is your liberation.

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery (Gal. 5:1).

Salvation is not just about <u>redemption</u>. It is also a defensive, protective <u>device</u>.

Salvation was meant to implement an entire new way of <u>thinking</u> into your life.

The enemy is after your mind.

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Salvation gives you <u>comprehensive</u> coverage—everything you need to remain <u>safe-guarded</u> against the attacks of the enemy.

(<u>6</u>)

What the brain is to the body, the mind is to the soul.

Salvation is about your identity. It's who you are in Christ.

Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls (Jas. 1:21).

Sometimes the greatest miracles God does are not in our circumstances, it's in our minds. We cooperate in the sanctification process.

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Rom. 12:1-2)

Strongholds are <u>torn</u> <u>down</u> through the Word of God.

Video sessions are available for download
at www.lifeway.com/armorofGod

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THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

The Sword of the Spirit is unique because

- 1. It is the only piece of armor that Paul actually describes in Ephesians 6.
- 2. It is the only offensive weapon.

Paul is telling us that to withstand the attacks from the enemy, we shouldn't always take a defensive posture.

Because the sword Paul describes was so <u>small</u>, it was perfect for <u>hand-to-hand</u> <u>combat</u>.

Sometimes it feels like the enemy is right in our face.

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Three different words in the original Scripture are translated Word of God:
1. <i>Graphe</i> – means the words on the page, the ink, the paper—literally the <u>book</u> .
2. Logos – the <u>message</u> of the graphe.
3. <i>Rhema</i> – The Word of God is the <u>utterance</u> of God, the spoken Word of God to you in your life.