**Armor of God**

**Week 1**

**The Belt of Truth**

**Ephesians 6: 10-18**

**Discussion Guide**

1. Pastor Bob said, “Don’t get all up in arms by what is happening around you…just stand firm! This is a call to arms…for all of us…in the midst of the chaos in this world, God’s call to us is this, ‘STAND FIRM!’” What are your thoughts and feelings regarding this call to action?

2. Read Ephesians 6:10-14. What are the “Heavenly Realms” (verse 12) and why are they so important? Why is prayer so critical?

3. Who is the enemy? How have you encountered the enemy personally in recent days? What does “when the day of evil comes” in verse 13, mean? How have you experienced this and how were you able to stand?

3. “A Roman soldier wore a tunic under his armor, and a large leather belt ‘was used to gather his garments together as well as to hold his sword.’ The belt was the first part of the armor put on, and it held everything else together. It was crucial.” (The Armor of God: Standing Firm in Spiritual Warfare by Gregory Brown). What was the purpose of the belt for soldiers in the Roman army? How does the belt of truth in verse 14 have a similar purpose?

4. How does Satan attack God’s Word? Give Biblical and current cultural examples. How does the post-modern concept of relativism feed Satan’s strategy?

5. “It is common for people to call themselves Christians and yet not believe that the Bible is true and without error, even though Scripture refers to itself as true, perfect, inspired, and enduring.” (The Armor of God: Standing Firm in Spiritual Warfare by Gregory Brown). Why is Bible study so crucial for us to stand firm? How do you stay grounded in God’s Word every day?

6. How effective is the Belt of Truth if you only know God’s truth but don’t live it out? What effective patterns have you developed to not only know truth mentally but to embrace it emotionally and spiritually and experientially?

7. What benefits come from hiding God’s Truth in your heart? Do you have a plan to memorize scripture? Share.

8. What will it look like for you to intentionally and mindfully dress in the Armor of God this week putting on the Belt of Truth?

**Devotions**

**Daily Time With Truth**

As you read these daily scriptures, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What is God saying to me?
2. What do I want to say to God in response?
3. How will I live out this truth?

**Day 1: Romans 13:11-12 AMP**

Do this, knowing that this is a critical time. It is already the hour for you to awaken from your sleep [of spiritual complacency]; for our salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed [in Christ]. The night [this present evil age] is almost gone and the day [of Christ’s return] is almost here. So let us fling away the works of darkness and put on the [full] armor of light.

**Day 2**: **2 Corinthians 10:3-6 TPT**

For although we live in the natural realm, we don’t wage a military campaign employing human weapons, *using manipulation to achieve our aims*. Instead, our *spiritual* weapons are energized with divine power to effectively dismantle the defenses *behind which people hide*.  We can demolish every deceptive fantasy that opposes God and break through every arrogant attitude that is raised up in defiance of the true knowledge of God. We capture, like prisoners of war, every thought and insist that it bow in obedience to the Anointed One. *Since we are armed with such dynamic weaponry*, we stand ready to punish any trace of rebellion, as soon as you choose complete obedience.

**Day 3:** **2 Timothy 3:16 (TPT)**

God has transmitted his very substance into every Scripture, for it is God-breathed. It will empower you by its instruction and correction, giving you the strength to take the right direction and lead you deeper into the path of godliness.

**Day 4: Romans 12:2 (TPT)**

Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God’s will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes.

**Day 5: Proverbs 3:3-4 (AMP)**

Do not let mercy *and* kindness and truth leave you [instead let these qualities define you];
Bind them [securely] around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. So find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.