

# Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

## **Ephesians** – “The depth of God’s grace lived out in love.”

### **Ephesians 6:10-13**

- Before we get started, how many of you are excited to study “The Armor of God?” Explain why.
- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

#### **3 – Questions from Sunday’s Sermon**

- **What? – Be Strong in The Lord**
- **How? – Put on The Whole Armor of God**
- **Why? – That You May Be Able to Stand**

#### **Read Eph. 6:10-13**

##### **I. What? – Be Strong in The Lord (Verse 10)**

- Why might some scoff at this passage about warfare? How would you respond?
- Do you believe that life is a battle? How have you experienced that reality recently?
- Do you take seriously the reality of Satan’s role in the conflict? How does that impact the way you approach difficult situations?
- Does Satan more effectively tempt you by showing you the seductive attractiveness of sin or by threatening to overpower you? How have you experienced these different modes of temptation?
- What does it mean to be strong in the Lord? From where do Christians derive strength? How do we do so?
- **Read Joshua 1:1-9 and answer the following questions:**

- Why did Joshua need to be strong and courageous? (Verses 1-2)
- Where was Joshua's strength found? Read verses 3-5 to help answer this question.
- How do faith and Godly strength go hand in hand?
- How does the battle of Jericho show that Godly strength and faith go hand in hand?
- What role does God's word play in being strong and courageous? Read verses 7 and 8 to help answer this question.
- How do the following verses relate?
  - Joshua 1:9
  - 1 Cor. 16:13
  - Eph. 6:10
- What are ways we can teach the younger generation to be strong and courageous?

## II. How? – Put on The Whole Armor of God (Verse 11a)

- What is sobering about the fact that we need armor as Christians?
- **Read Eph. 6:13-16.** What protective (defensive) pieces of armor are children of God given in their ongoing struggle with the forces of evil? What offensive weapons are we given with which to wage war?
- What does it mean that most of the Armor is defensive?
- How are the different pieces of armor helpful to you in standing against the Devil's schemes?
- Which one of the pieces of armor or weapons do you need to pay more attention to? Explain.

## III. Why? – That You May Be Able to Stand (Verse 11b)

- **Read Eph. 2:6.** What does it mean that we were seated with Christ? Read Hebrews 10:11-13 & Romans 8:37-39 to help answer this question.
- **Read Eph. 4:1.** What does it mean that we are called to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which [we] have been called”?
- **Compare and contrast** “being seated” and “the call to walk.”

- **Read Eph. 6:11, 13 & 14.** Why does Paul emphasize the concept of standing and how does standing compare to “being seated” and “the call to walk”?
- Why is it important that we stand together? **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:6-11** to help answer this question.
- **Read and discuss the following quote:**
  - Roman soldiers were infamous for their warfare. Especially standing their ground and not retreating. As long as they stood together on a flat, open field and did not break ranks, their legions were considered virtually invincible.
- **Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.** What extra insight into spiritual battle do you find in this passage? What is the tone of this passage? Why?
- **Read and discuss the following quote:**
  - So “be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might”; take your stand against the devil, protected by the armor that God has provided. Fight the good fight with all your might. Wrestle with all the energy that the Spirit gives you. But in the midst of that standing, fighting, and wrestling, don’t forget to rest in the finished victory of Christ and the assurance that the Spirit’s perfect sanctifying work in your life is what counts. – **Iain M. Duguid**