

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

## MILITARY SUNDAY

Effective Fire – Ephesians 6:10-13

May 27, 2012



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. For all Rock Church events, please visit <http://www.sdrock.com/events/>.
2. Let your friends know that they can always live stream the Rock Church Sunday worship experience by visiting <http://www.sdrock.com/live/>.
3. Join other Rock Church small groups in serving San Diego by volunteering for the San Diego Food Bank in the month of May. Go to [www.sdrock.com/fooddrive](http://www.sdrock.com/fooddrive) for available volunteer times. You can also RSVP at [druiz@sandiegofoodbank.org](mailto:druiz@sandiegofoodbank.org). Look forward to seeing you there!
4. We are currently in the process of rolling out our new Area Leader and Coach leadership team for the Small Group ministry. If you are interested in joining this team, our could use the benefits of having a Small Group Coach, please contact [john.darrow@sdrock.com](mailto:john.darrow@sdrock.com).

## MEMORY VERSE

“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.”  
(Ephesians 6:11 ESV)

“Therefor take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” (Ephesians 6:13 ESV)

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

(Use one or more of the following opening discussion starters)

1. How often do you feel a tension between obedience to Jesus and submission to the flesh?
2. What are some things that you do to get back to obedience to Jesus? Is there a “formula” or discipline that you do? Explain.



## Sermon Review and Introduction

This week will be a little different than previous weeks. As we celebrated the men and women who defended our country this last Sunday, in our small groups we want to try to dig a little deeper application from Ephesians 6 and the call to “spiritual warfare.”

Below are the lesson plan notes to review if you decide to discuss this in your group, however, the discussion will take a slightly different route.

1. If necessary briefly review the lesson plan from Sunday and any extra notes you may have taken with the group.

**Shoot** only to deliver effective fire. *Hebrews 4:12*

**Move** with intent to fulfill the mission. *Micah 6:8, Psalm 86:11*

**Communicate** always. *Jeremiah 33:3*

Add'l Notes:

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2. Examine the context of Ephesians 6 together as a group. A few key things to consider before approaching this lesson:
  - Paul is addressing both Jews and Gentiles in the Ephesian church. There is a clear dispute and division (a type of racial prejudice) amongst both parties. There are many other views for the purpose of this Epistle, but Paul pursues many key themes and insights in this Epistle.
  - Lets look at the structure of this letter (all of these points may not be necessary for your study, but notice the flow of the letter. Look at the key themes and concepts and see how Paul draws it to a conclusion in the discussion of the “armor of God.”):

### **Part One: The Position of the Christian (1:1–3:21)**

<b>I. Praise for Redemption</b>	<b>1:1–14</b>
A. Salutation from Paul	1:1, 2
B. Chosen by the Father	1:3–6
C. Redeemed by the Son	1:7–12
D. Sealed by the Spirit	1:13, 14
<b>II. Prayer for Revelation</b>	<b>1:15–23</b>
<b>III. Position of the Christian</b>	<b>2:1–3:13</b>
A. The Christian’s Position Individually	2:1–10
B. The Christian’s Position Corporately	2:11–3:13
<b>IV. Prayer for Realization</b>	<b>3:14–21</b>



## Part Two: The Practice of the Christian (4:1–6:24)

<b>I. Unity in the Church</b>	<b>4:1–6</b>
A. Exhortation to Unity	4:1–3
B. Explanation of Unity	4:4–6
C. Means for Unity: The Gifts	4:7–11
D. Purpose of the Gifts	4:12–16
<b>II. Holiness in Life</b>	<b>4:17–5:21</b>
A. Put Off the Old Man	4:17–22
B. Put On the New Man	4:23–29
C. Grieve Not the Holy Spirit	4:30–5:12
D. Walk as Children of Light	5:13–17
E. Be Filled with the Spirit	5:18–21
<b>III. Responsibilities in the Home and at Work</b>	<b>5:22–6:9</b>
A. Wives: Submit to Your Husbands	5:22–24
B. Husbands: Love Your Wives	5:25–33
C. Children: Obey Your Parents	6:1–4
D. Service on the Job	6:5–9
<b>IV. Conduct in the Conflict</b>	<b>6:10–24</b>
A. Put On the Armor of God	6:10–17
B. Pray for Boldness	6:18–20
C. Conclusion	6:21–24 <sup>1</sup>

3. Compare Eph. 1:1-14 with Eph. 6:6:10-20. How do these two sections relate to each other? Why do you suppose Paul would include chapter 6 in this Epistle in light of the rest of the contents of this letter?
4. What *is* the “armor of God” as described in Eph. 6:10-20? **Don’t** restate that actual articles of clothing. How do all of the articles tie together? What is Paul trying to communicate by listing all of these articles as “armor?”

Note: The central theme of Ephesians is 1:9-10, “making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.” Christ and the gospel is the focal point always!

### Application

1. Eph. 6:10-20 describes a difficult relationship with the evil one. It also describes our response. Which is Paul’s greater focus? The attack of the evil one, or our response to the attack?
2. Discuss how this practically plays out in your everyday life? How to we actually “take up the whole armor of God?”  
Note: Try to avoid generic responses. Review the context of the power of the gospel. Is this something we do or something already done for us?
3. Many people avoid 6:18-19 in their understanding of spiritual warfare. Paul makes it of great importance. How often and effective are your prayers? Who and what are you praying for? Based on Eph. 6:10-20 what is Paul’s emphasis on prayer for and are you doing that?

### Homework

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Thomas Nelson Publishers, *Nelson's Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts : Old and New Testaments.*, Rev. and updated ed. (Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson, 1996).



1. Check out this great article on spiritual warfare and wrestle with how you view warfare and your response to it: <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/2007/09/10/spiritual-warfare-101/>
2. Be in constant prayer for your brothers and sisters in Christ. We can truly only understand our role in warfare by being in continuous prayer on behalf of our faith family. Find ways personally, and among your group members of praying with fervency and consistently. In all cases of prayer, understand your position (in Christ), your victory (already accomplished through the cross), and your role in the war (the evil one is already defeated, stand firm in the gospel).

