

**COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE****Waging War, Part 1**

EPHESIANS 6:10-13

**OVERVIEW**

Everything—literally everything—in heaven and on earth is being united in Christ (1:10). Only when we understand who Christ is can we begin to understand who we are. We often read Paul’s letters thinking about all Scripture calls us to do. But before Ephesians calls us to do anything, it reminds us what God has done in Christ.

Our identity is not based on what we do, but who we are. Our identity is not earned and achieved but declared and received. Our identity, as Christians, is found “in Christ.” We are united to Christ—and that changes everything about us! Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus explains what we were (apart from Christ), who we are (in Christ), and then how we should live as followers of Christ, all for the glory of Christ.

**APPLY // EPHESIANS 6:5-9**

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-2; 6:5-9.
2. How does this passage show us that all the work we do is ultimately for Jesus? What does this tell us about the importance of our work? Why are we tempted to disconnect our work from our discipleship? How does this lead to idleness or idolatry?
3. Often when we read a passage like this, our first thought is “But what about...” How does the person and work of Jesus enable us to obey even when our circumstances are hard?
4. How does this passage instruct those in authority? How does using authority rightly display God’s character and the goodness of the gospel?
5. This text calls us to look past earthly rewards to the impartial Lord who rewards. Why is that hard to do? Why do we so often seek earthly rewards? How can we set our hearts on eternal rewards?

**STUDY // EPHESIANS 6:10-13**

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-17. (NOTE: We’ll be dividing this text into two sermons – part 1: 10-13; part 2: 14-17).
2. What do you notice about Paul’s command “to be strong”? Notice this command is passive (i.e. something that happens to us). Why does that matter?
3. What does it mean that we are to be strong “in the Lord” and “in the strength of his might”? What is the strength of his might?

4. What is the whole armor of God? What does it mean to “put [it] on” (v. 11) or “take [it] up” (v. 13)?
  5. According to the text, why does Paul instruct us to put the armor on?
  6. What are the “schemes of the devil”? What does it mean to “stand against” them?
  7. Notice what it says at the beginning of verse 12: “For we...” Who is the “we”? Why is it important to not miss the corporate aspect of this passage?
  8. According to verse 12, who is our struggle *not* against? What does this mean and why is it important to realize? Who is our struggle against? What does this mean and why is it important to realize?
  9. How does the “Therefore” at the beginning of verse 13 connect back to verse 12?
  10. What is the “evil day”? What does it mean to have “done all”? What does it mean to “stand firm”?
  11. How do these verses build on what Paul has already written in the first 5 chapters? How are these verses informed by who we are in Christ and empowered by what Jesus has done for us?
- General Bible study questions:
    - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
    - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
    - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
    - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
    - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

**QUESTION:** Praise God for areas of grace in your work. Examine your heart for areas where you may need to repent of working without respect, diligence, excellence or leading without humility.