

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Supplication for the Saints

EPHESIANS 6:14-20

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 6:10-13

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Focus on verses 10-13.
2. Paul tells us to “be strong in the Lord.” Why and how are we tempted to be strong in ourselves? What’s in the culture and in our heart that tempts toward self-reliance? How can we as a community remind each other our strength is in the Lord?
3. Twice in this passage Paul tells us to put on/take up the “whole armor” of God. Practically speaking, how do we put on the armor of God? What’s the importance of putting on the *whole* armor and not just part?
4. Verse 11 tells us to stand against the schemes of the Devil. Identify a few places in Scripture where we see the Devil’s schemes. How might they look today?
5. Paul’s insistence on both the reality and power of the evil one strikes many as “fantasy.” Why do you think we are tempted to neglect the reality of spiritual warfare? What’s the danger in under-emphasizing spiritual battle? What’s the danger in over-emphasizing spiritual battle?
6. How does the gospel remind us that though the battle wages, the war has already been won?

STUDY // EPHESIANS 6:14-20

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 6:10-20.
2. In verse 14, we read “Stand *therefore*...” Trace Paul’s argument from verses 10-14.
3. Identify and discuss each piece of spiritual armor. How do each of these pieces find their foundation in the gospel not in our effort?

4. Which pieces are defensive? Which pieces are offensive? What do we learn from these insights?
 5. Notice the repetition of “all.” Where do you see it? What does this imply about spiritual battle?
 6. According to verse 18, what’s the connection of prayer to putting on the armor of God?
 7. Notice that Paul requests prayers for himself. What does that tell us about Paul? According to this verse, how does Paul view himself?
 8. What does he request prayer for?
 9. What does it mean to “keep alert with all perseverance?” What’s the connection between prayer and perseverance?
 10. What do you make of Paul’s comment at the end, “as I ought to speak”?
 11. What is Paul’s main concern in verses 10-20?
- 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: How are you doing standing in the strength of the Lord?