

WEEK 2

FULL ARMOR

BIG IDEA

The armor God provides is sufficient for every attack.

SCRIPTURE

Read this passage slowly.

Ephesians 6:14-17 (ESV)

14 Stand firm therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,



CONTEXT

Last week Paul established that believers are in a real spiritual battle against real spiritual forces, and that the only way to stand is in strength that is not their own. Verses 14-17 follow directly from that. Having named the enemy and the stakes, Paul now describes the armor God provides for standing firm. Every piece he names: the belt, breastplate, boots, shield, helmet, and sword, was standard equipment for a Roman soldier that his readers would have recognized immediately. What they would not have expected was what Paul assigns to each piece.



A CLOSER LOOK: "READINESS"

The Greek word translated "readiness" in verse 15 is *hetoimasia*, and it appears only this once in the entire New Testament. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the word carries the sense of a firm foundation or established base rather than simply a state of mental preparedness. The image behind Paul's military metaphor is the Roman soldier's sandals, thick-soled boots studded with hobnails that dug into the ground and kept the soldier planted when the fighting began. Notice what this readiness comes from: not training, not experience, not resolve, but the gospel of peace. That Paul would use a message of peace to describe a soldier's battle readiness is worth sitting with.

WARM-UP

What stood out to you from Sunday's message, and what questions did it leave you with?

OBSERVATION

1. Look at verse 15. What does Paul say believers' feet are fitted with? What does that have to do with standing in a battle?

- 2.** In verse 16, what does Paul say the shield of faith is able to do? Notice the word "all," what does that tell you about faith's role in spiritual warfare?
- 3.** In verse 17, Paul identifies one weapon that is different from everything else in the list. What is it, and what makes it different?
- 4.** Look at verses 14-17. Who provides the armor, and who is responsible for putting it on? What does that tell you about how God works in spiritual warfare?

APPLICATION

- 1.** God provides the armor but doesn't force anyone to wear it. What is one area of your life where you are trying to stand in your own strength rather than in what God has provided?
- 2.** Paul says faith extinguishes all the flaming arrows of the evil one. What is one specific attack you are facing right now, and what would it look like to respond with trust in God rather than your own strength?
- 3.** The sword of the Spirit is the word of God, and you cannot wield what you do not know. What verse will you memorize this week to add to your arsenal? Get recommendations from your group if you aren't sure.

PRAYER
