



THE GOOD FIGHT

The Good Fight - Part 4
Helmet on, Shield up, Sword in Hand
Pastor Dave Patterson
7.29.18

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures referenced in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to pound through the questions but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships, so use the discussion questions as you see fit, but emphasize the relationships.

Key verses for this series:

Ephesians 6:10-12

A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.

Therefore, **put on every piece of God's armor** so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Three pieces of armor for this week:

Ephesians 6:16-17

In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take **the helmet of salvation** and **the sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God.



1. THE HELMET OF SALVATION

1 Thessalonians 5:8 (NLT)

But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation.



2. THE SHIELD OF FAITH

Colossians 3:16

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly” (NKJV)

“Let the Word of Christ have its home within you, dwelling in your heart and mind—permeating every aspect of your being” (AMP)

2 Cor 5:7

. . . for we live (walk) by faith, not by what we see with our eyes.



3. THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is **sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword**, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

Jesus showed us how to fight using the sword of the Spirit.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted^[a] by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “*If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.*”

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus answered, "**It is written:** 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "*If you are the Son of God,*" he said, "*throw yourself down. For it is written:*

*"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."*

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus answered him, "**It is also written:** 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "*All this I will give you,*" he said, "*if you will bow down and worship me."*

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! **For it is written:** 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

2 Samuel 23:9-10

Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai (do-do) the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty warriors, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim for battle. Then the Israelites retreated, but Eleazar stood his ground and struck down the Philistines **till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword** and the LORD brought about a great victory that day. The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to collect the plunder

Isaiah 43:18

"Forget the former things;

do not dwell on the past.

See, I am doing a new thing!

Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

I am making a way in the wilderness

and streams in the desert (the wasteland)

Exodus 33:15-17

Then Moses said to him, “If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish us from all the other people on the face of the earth?”

And the LORD said to Moses, “I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name.”

TALK IT THROUGH

1. If you were stranded on a deserted island, what three books and/or three people would you choose to have with you?
2. Read together Ephesians 10-12, 16-17. Consider the helmet of salvation, and discuss why our minds are such a significant battlefield. What do we need protection from, and what, within our minds, requires protection?
3. In 1 Thess. 5:8 (above) the NLT translation speaks of wearing as our helmet *the confidence of our salvation*. In Ephesians 1, Paul states foundational truths of what God has given us in Jesus. Read Ephesians 1:3-13 together and briefly list the blessings of our salvation. How critical are these truths in battle?
4. Consider next the shield of faith. Read Romans 10:17 and Colossians 3:16. Is your shield forward? Do you lead with faith/ live with faith? How can we make the Word of Christ a permanent resident in our heart and mind? How can you fill up with the Word of God? What does it look like to meditate on God’s Word?
5. Pastor Dave gave several examples of truths/principles he cannot be talked out of by the enemy – things of which he is absolutely convinced by faith. What’s one thing you’re absolutely convinced of?
6. The Sword of the Spirit: What’s the difference between head knowledge and heart knowledge with regard to God’s Word? Pastor Dave distinguished between Logos (the written Word) and Rhema (the spoken Word). When we speak God’s word under the urging of the Holy Spirit into a situation in our lives, we begin to take ground in the spiritual realm. Share briefly one area of your life where ground needs to be taken. What is the Word (the Sword) that you could use/are using? Take some time in your group to pray out scripture over each other’s situation.