

Union Bethel AME Church (dial-in and Facebook™ Live)
Bible Study Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#
Tuesday, March 31, 2020, 6:30-7:30 PM

Ephesians 6:10-20



These “Whole Armor of God” scripture verses are widely quoted and serve as a sermon topic frequently. In the next 6 weeks we will cover the Whole Armor of God and dive into the work of evangelism. We will use the Bible and 2 books *Tell Someone*¹ and *Becoming a Disciple-Maker*². I encourage you to purchase copies of these books to follow along with this series.

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. (March 3)

14 Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. (March 10)

15 As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. (March 17)

¹ Greg Laurie, *Tell Someone: You Can Share The Good News* (Nashville: Lifeway Press, 2016).

² Hanks Jr., Billie and Randy Craig, *Becoming a Disciple-Maker* (Salado: International Evangelism Association, 2013).

16 With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (March 24)

17 Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (March 31)

18 Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. (April 7)

19 Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, **20** for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak

Ephesians 6:17

The final part of our armor is our helmet. We have to protect our heads in times of battle. To fight effectively our minds must be focused on the strategies of warfare. We must not only concentrate on the fight we are in but we need to guard our thoughts to prevent the enemy from causing confusion. The helmet of salvation should continue to remind us what side we are on in this spiritual warfare. The helmet of salvation is our connection to God who is the general in spiritual battles. God knows the battle plan. God knows what the enemy will do to counter strike. We need our helmet of salvation not just to keep our heads from physical harm but to also keep our minds free of the tricks of the enemy.

Now that we are protected with all of the armor, we can raise our swords. The first step for a soldier is to have protection from the blows of the enemy. The next step is to select the tool for the fight and get it ready. Our sword is our connection with the Holy Spirit. We are sharp when the presence of the Holy Spirit in us is high. When we accepted Jesus, we invited the Holy Spirit into our spirits. When we allow ourselves to be baptized with the Holy Spirit we become soldiers able to not just put on the armor of God but to now use the sword effectively. The sword cuts through the words of false prophets. The sword of God cuts to the heart and lays bare all intentions. This sword is powerful and can only be used by those who are ready for the battle.

How do we keep our helmets on and our swords sharp?

Week 5

Excerpted from Tell Someone: You Can Share the Good News

What is the Gospel that we share?

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Have you ever been hesitant to share the Gospel because of how you thought the person would react? How did you press on anyhow?

Romans 3:21-23

21 But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, **22** the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, **23** since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

21 So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. **22** But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

How would you walk an unbeliever through these Bible verses?

When presenting the Gospel give people time for Awareness, Anger, and then Acceptance. Speak with love. People need to hear what is said and process it. They get angry because they are realizing their sin. Finally,

through faith they will accept and repent or continue their current course of action.

Speak in terms that people will understand. If you use phrases you grew up hearing, be prepared to explain by example. If you say, “washed in the blood of the Lamb”, then be prepared to talk about blood sacrifices in Hebrew Old Testament culture.

Christian Phrase	Everyday Language
Washed in the blood	Cleaned of my sins because of Jesus' sacrifice. God required in the Old Testament that sins were forgiven after animal blood sacrifice. Jesus came to be the final blood sacrifice.

Some people may be resistant because they do not feel qualified for Jesus to have died for them. They may feel that there is no forgiveness for how they have lived and the things they have done. Be patient while explaining that anyone can be forgiven. It does not matter what was done.

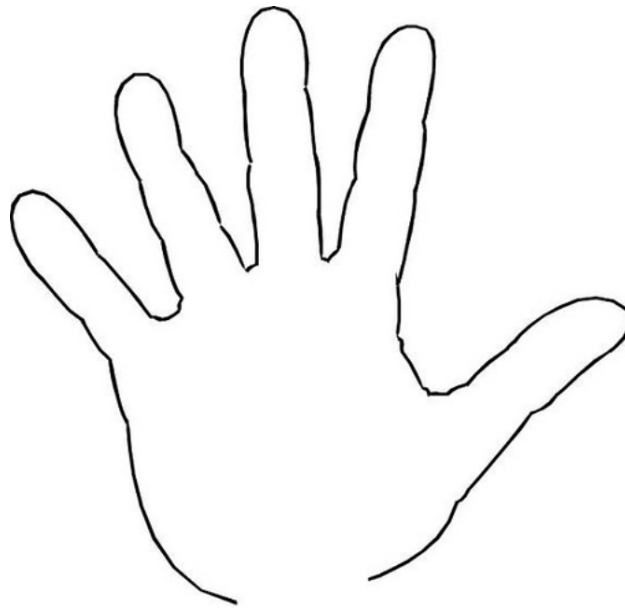
Excerpted from *Becoming A Disciple-Maker*

Internalize the Word of God. Listen, Read, Study, Meditate, and Apply.

Today we will focus on apply. How should we apply the Word of God?

Apply

Raise your hand.



Our 5 fingers represent (1) Listen, (2) Read, (3) Study, (4) Memorize, and (5) Meditate on God's Word. The palm of our hand represents Applying God's Word. We apply God's Word by spreading the Gospel and making disciples. Our mission is to present the saving power of Jesus the Christ and grow as we go. We must grow spiritually and bring others to the saving knowledge of faith in Christ Jesus.

Consider these concepts:

Disciples have work to do.

1. Disciples make new disciples (Matthew 28:19).
2. You do not need to grow to a specific maturity level before you can make new disciples. We continue to grow throughout our lives.

3. Compared to eternity, our time is limited. Do what we can to make disciples while we are able.
 - a. Jesus had only 3 years of active ministry walking this earth.
 - b. Jesus spent his time preaching, teaching, and healing and offering the love of God to make new disciples.
 - c. Let's do our share with the time we have.

4. Jesus used life-to-life training
 - a. Quality produced quantity
 - b. Leaders were equipped in private times with Jesus
 - i. Teaching involves listening and learning to gain knowledge
 - ii. Training involves putting knowledge into practice by watching the teacher (observation)
 - c. Think of the work of Jesus as follows:
 - i. One-to-one is training for individuals
 - ii. One-to-some is teaching for small groups
 - iii. One-to-many is preaching to a crowd

Mentorship is key.

There are many instances of mentorship in the Bible. Mentors train us. Mentors inspire us. Mentors pass the baton to us.

1. Jesus mentored the apostles
2. Moses mentored Joshua
3. Elijah mentored Elisha
4. Barnabas mentored Paul
5. Paul mentored Timothy and Titus
6. Peter mentored Mark

Who was your mentor in faith and growth as a disciple? How did that person help you in your walk with Christ Jesus?
