

Sunday, August 22, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church

**Bible Study – Ephesians 6:10-20
“Armored”**

Open with a word of prayer

Gathering Time (5-10 minutes) In pairs or groups of three, have participants share when they had to gear up with proper clothing and/or tools for a specific task. (For example, people may need to wear personal protective equipment for the prevention of disease or wear the appropriate clothing and have the right tools for gardening or a sporting event.) How did the gear and/or tools help accomplish the task?

Ephesians 6:10-20. Context. This week’s reading is the rhetorical conclusion of the whole letter, encouraging those who read it to stand firm in the faith. The author uses the image of a Roman soldier, fully equipped to do battle, to describe how Christians need to be prepared to do spiritual battle with the forces of evil.

Read Ephesians 6:10-20

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn’t make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

Read Ephesians 6:10-20 again.

Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

- Where does Paul note the source of our strength coming from (v.10)? [The strength of God’s power.]
- Who does Paul observe as our real enemies (v. 12)? What does this say about who are enemies are and are not?
- Which part of the armor of God do you desire the most and why?
- How might this armor help us to “stand against” evil (v. 11)?
- How might this armor help us to “keep alert” (v. 18)?
- What have you learned in this series to help you and your church be “geared up for life”?
- How can this group be of further help to you as you seek to grow as a disciple of Jesus for the transformation of the world?

Closing Reflection Question

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

Prayer (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

Sending Forth (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

Gracious God, empower us to stand against the evil forces we encounter in this world and to be alert to your presence. May your grace enable us to be imitators of you, to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.