

About Home Groups

There are multiple options available to you in Home Group communities. These options include how we meet, location, and curriculum. Check them out on our website: www.trinityonline.org.

About this series

We are getting prepared for battle. God's Word is clear that we are in a spiritual battle and need to be ready. This series focuses on how we can stand together against the devil and his forces. (You can view this week's message by Bill Born on our website.)

About this week

For this week, we are going to focus on a piece of the armor of God to wear in the battle, "with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace."

We will study and discuss three questions:

- 1) What is the gospel of peace and how does it equip us for spiritual battle?
- 2) How do we stand in a posture of readiness?
- 3) Since Jesus already won the victory and it is God who is advancing His kingdom, then what is our role?

JUST FOR FUN

What kinds of shoes or boots do you own? Are some of them specialized for some use?

LEARN FROM THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD

What is the gospel of peace and how does it equip us for spiritual battle?

Read Ephesians 6:11-18. Thus far, we have discussed the following:

- We are in a spiritual battle against the devil and his forces (11-12)
- God's call and command is to stand together, equipped with His armor. (13)
- Thus far, we have examined "the belt of truth" and "the breastplate of righteousness." (v.14)

First, a note about the word translated as "gospel" or "good news." At the time of writing, the recipients would see this word to mean "an announcement brought by a messenger of a victory in a battle." So the word has an undertone of both battle and good news. In this case, the good news is that Jesus has already won victory over sin and wrath for us through His death on the cross and won victory over death by rising from the dead. Truly the greatest news ever.

The Scriptures indicate that there are two kingdoms: the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan (the devil). If we have put our faith in Jesus, then we are a part of an army serving God's kingdom. God is advancing His kingdom into and over the kingdom of darkness. In the midst of this battle is a focus on God's objective of bringing "peace."

Read the following and consider what we learn about "peace."

Isaiah 53:5

John 16:33

Romans 5:1

1 Corinthians 14:33

Romans 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 1:13-14 (What do these say about our position / peace with God before and after faith in Christ?)

How does the gospel of peace equip us for battle? (This is very partial)

Matthew 5:9

Colossians 4:6

How do we stand in a posture of readiness with the gospel of peace?

Ephesians 2:12-14

Ephesians 4:32-5:2

Ephesians 5:1-2

Colossians 4:2-3

Since Jesus already won the victory and it is God who is advancing His kingdom, then what is our role?

Isaiah 52:7

1 Peter 3:15

Colossians 4:2-6

GROUP DISCUSSION

What comes to mind from the phrase "Gospel of peace?" Why might this be associated with shoes/feet?

What difference does it make that it is God who is advancing the kingdom? How does this influence our role? Why does Paul connect our role with "thanksgiving" in Colossians 4:2?

What does it look like to be ready when you see that God is moving in someone's life?

OUR SUMMARY

Be ready to move with Jesus with the gospel of peace as He is advancing His kingdom.

LET'S PRAY

Thank you for praying each week – we know that God listens to and answers prayer.

There is much to pray about. Please consider these requests:

- Pray for our "Halloween is still Happenin'" outreach
- Pray for our suffering families and global workers
- Pray for our Elders and other shepherds caring for the church family
- Pray for our students and student ministries