

## Home Group Leader's Tips

### Armed #5

#### 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)

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

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Jesus took on our pain and suffering (the opposite of "peace") and through His obedience and sacrifice, brought us peace.**

John 16:33

**NOTES TO LEADERS: The context of this promise of peace is a time when people are scattered and alone. Jesus promises us peace because of two reasons: (1) He has overcome the world and (2) in another place, that He will not abandon us – He will always be present through the Holy Spirit and through prayer and His Word.**

Romans 5:1

**NOTES TO LEADERS: We can have peace with God (positional and experiential) through and because of Jesus Christ by faith in Him.**

1 Corinthians 14:33

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Peace is innate to the character of God. The need and desire for peace is because we were made in God's image.**

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?)

**NOTES TO LEADERS: We learn throughout the New Testament that faith in Jesus (i.e including His death, burial, and resurrection) we are no longer an enemy of God (at war with Him), we are acceptable to be in His presence, and therefore at peace with God (positional).**

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

Matthew 5:9

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Those who have God's people can become peacemakers (reflecting the character of God). Thus, God's people bring peace with them into the battle.**

Colossians 4:6

**NOTES TO LEADERS: (Sorry, probably not the best reference to use.) Previously, (3:15) we are told to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts. This enables us to administer grace in our relationships and conversations with all people.**

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

Ephesians 2:12-14

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Remembering the grace of what Jesus Christ has done for us – bringing us from being distant and without hope – will enable us to live with grace, understanding, and passion to share this amazing good news with others.**

Ephesians 4:32-5:2

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Out of our new position in Christ (peace), we follow God's example of love and sacrifice.**

Colossians 4:2-3

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Because we are at peace with God, we have full access to God through prayer. Our daily posture should be to (1) pray, (2) watch for God, (3) give thanksgiving, and (4) be ready for when God opens a door to proclaim (share) the good news (the mystery).**

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

Isaiah 52:7

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Our role is to use our feet to bring the good news, i.e. to announce Jesus' victory. This victory achieves our peace with God, salvation, and brings people into the kingdom (reign) of God.**

1 Peter 3:15

**NOTES TO LEADERS: We are called to be ready to share the reason for why we have hope.**

Colossians 4:2-6

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Pray that God will open doors for the gospel, watch, give thanks, be wise and full of grace in conversations, and seek God's wisdom for how to answer.**

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

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

**NOTES TO LEADERS: The purpose of this question is to help us engage the topic.**

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?

**NOTES TO LEADERS: As we pray and watch, we see what God is doing. We do not have to force or manipulate conversations. Instead, God answers prayers and we join God as he moves in people’s lives. We are give thanks because God is always working.**

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

**NOTES TO LEADERS: Readiness is joining God’s family as we live in godliness (living in and before God in love and obedience), believing that God called us to be on Jesus’ mission of bringing the gospel, getting equipped as Jesus disciples, walk through our days in prayer/watch/ thanks and making the most of opportunities as God opens doors – knowing that it is God who works through the Holy Spirit, the Word, and His people.**

## **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

“To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

“(Jude 24-25)

With praise,  
Steve