

Home Group Leader's Notes for "Armed" series
Armed #7 – The Helmet of Salvation

LOOKING BACK

Has there been a time in life when your thinking was troubled? muddled? confused? What was happening in your life? How did this affect you?

NOTES TO LEADERS: THE PURPOSE OF THESE QUESTIONS IS TO START THINKING ABOUT THINKING – TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE ENEMY ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE OUR THOUGHT LIVES.

Knowing that the helmet was to protect one's head, what specific aspect of our lives might the enemy attack?

NOTES TO LEADERS: IF THE ENEMY CAN GET INTO OUR HEAD, HE CAN CHANGE OUR ATTITUDES, OUR FAITH, AND OUR FOCUS IN LIFE.

What are your initial thoughts about why "the helmet" would be connected with "salvation?" Said another way, what might "the helmet of salvation" have to do with spiritual warfare or attacks of the enemy?

NOTES TO LEADERS: OUR SALVATION IS THE BASIS OF OUR HOPE, OUR POSITIVITY, AND OUR CONFIDENCE WITH GOD. THE ENEMY WANTS TO CREATE DOUBT ABOUT OUR SALVATION.

It is powerful and encouraging reviewing what God says about our salvation. Read the following verses and write what we learn about salvation (rescue).

Acts 4:12; 16:30-31

NOTES TO LEADERS: SALVATION IS ONLY THROUGH JESUS. WE HAVE COME TO THE RIGHT PLACE FOR OUR SALVATION. BELIEVING IN JESUS IS THE MEANS OF OUR SALVATION. WE ARE SAVED BY THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS. WE ARE UNDER HIS RULE – NO LONGER A SLAVE TO THIS WORLD THAT IS UNDER CONTROL OF THE DEVIL.

Romans 1:16

NOTES TO LEADERS: OUR SALVATION IS THROUGH BELIEF IN THE GOSPEL AND THIS IS TRUE FOR ALL PEOPLE, JEWS AND NON-JEWS. IT IS BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH THE GOSPEL.

Romans 10:9-10

NOTES TO LEADERS: THIS IS A CLEAR PROMISE OF GOD. IF WE BELIEVE IN AND DECLARE THAT JESUS IS LORD, WE WILL BE SAVED. WHEN WE BELIEVE, GOD DECLARES US RIGHTEOUS BEFORE HIM (JUSTIFIES). (WE DON'T EARN OUR SALVATION – GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DECLARE US RIGHTEOUS.) WE CAN BE CONFIDENT OF OUR SALVATION.

1 Corinthians 1:18; 15:2

NOTES TO LEADERS: OUR FAITH IS IN JESUS, WHAT HE DID ON THE CROSS AND THAT HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD. THIS IS THE GOOD NEWS (THE GOSPEL) OF OUR SALVATION.

Ephesians 1:13

NOTES TO LEADERS: WE WERE INCLUDED IN CHRIST, RECEIVED SALVATION, WHEN WE HEARD THE GOOD NEWS AND BELIEVED.

Ephesians 2:3-5, 8-9

NOTES TO LEADERS: BY OURSELVES, WE ARE SINFUL AND DESERVING OF WRATH. IT IS THE WRATH OF GOD FROM WHICH WE ARE "SAVED / RESCUED." OUR SALVATION IS COMPLETELY THROUGH THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST. NO WORKS BY US CAN SAVE US. RATHER, IT IS THE WORK OF JESUS AS A GIFT OF GOD. GOD IS LOVE, AND EXPRESSED THIS LOVE THROUGH MERCY (NOT GIVING US WHAT WE DESERVE) AND GRACE. (UNEARNED FAVOR WITH GOD.) BECAUSE THIS IS A WORK OF GOD, THIS MEANS THAT OUR SALVATION IS SECURE.

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

NOTES TO LEADERS: GOD SPARED US FROM THE WRATH THAT WE DESERVED. HE SPARED US SO THAT WE MIGHT LIVE WITH HIM FOREVER.

Titus 3:5

NOTES TO LEADERS: WE ARE NOT SAVED BY THE RIGHTEOUS THINGS WE DO BUT BECAUSE HIS MERCY. THE HOLY SPIRIT ACCOMPLISHES THIS. THE TRINITY, ALL THREE PERSONS OF GOD, ARE INVOLVED IN OUR SALVATION.

What is connected with the helmet of salvation in 1 Thessalonians 5:8? Why would these be connected?

NOTES TO LEADERS: HOPE IS CONNECTED WITH THE HELMET. WHEN WE DOUBT OUR SALVATION, WE LIVE WITHOUT HOPE.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

The helmet is worn to protect our head, the locale of our thinking. What, in our thinking, does the enemy attack? In what ways?

NOTES TO LEADERS: IF THE ENEMY CAN BRING OUT THE DOUBT OF OUR SALVATION, WE LOST HOPE. THE ENEMY ACCUSES, CONFUSES, AND MUDDLES OUR THINKING ABOUT MANY THINGS. HERE ARE A FEW:

- WHEN WE SIN, THE ENEMY WANTS US TO DOUBT OUR SALVATION
- THE ENEMY WANTS TO CAST DOUBT OR DISPARAGE THE CHARACTER OF GOD. THIS BEGAN IN GENESIS 3.
- THE ENEMY WANTS TO CAST DOUBT ON THE PROMISES OF GOD HAVING TO DO WITH OUR SALVATION

Reread Titus 3:4-7. How does thinking about our salvation help our thinking in spiritual warfare? What specific aspects of our salvation strengthen our protection against the enemy? (i.e. who, how, security, +)

NOTES TO LEADERS: HERE ARE A FEW THOUGHTS:

- OUR SALVATION FLOWS FROM THE CHARACTER, THE HEART OF GOD. HE IS MERCIFUL, GRACIOUS, COMPASSIONATE, LOVING, FAITHFUL, AND FORGIVING. THINKING ON THIS WILL SHAPE EVERYTHING THAT WE ARE AND DO.
- WHEN WE TRULY BELIEVE / UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE SINFUL AND UNABLE TO RESCUE OURSELVES, WE GROW IN GRATITUDE, LOVE, AND DEDICATION TO GOD.
- THE ENEMY CANNOT CONFUSE, FRIGHTEN (WITH ACCUSATION), OR CHALLENGE OUR THINKING WHEN WE ARE FULL OF PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, AND HAVE OUR MINDS SET ON OUR GOD OF WONDERS.

Some have said that what we worry about most is our future. How does our salvation address our future and therefore worries?

NOTES TO LEADERS: OUR SALVATION IS DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH OUR PRESENT AND ETERNAL FUTURE. OUR SALVATION REPRESENTS THE CHARACTER AND PROMISES OF GOD. WHEN WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS, WE WILL BE FILLED WITH HOPE, CONFIDENCE IN OUR FUTURE.

How are we to “take up” this helmet together? What can we, His family, do in “the day of evil?”

NOTES TO LEADERS: THE SCRIPTURES MAKE THIS PROMISE AND COMMAND TO “US,” NOT JUST “ME.” HERE ARE SOME IDEAS OF HOW WE “TAKE UP” THIS HELMET TOGETHER.

- WE REJOICE IN OUR SALVATION TOGETHER
- WHEN UNDER ATTACK, WE REMIND ONE ANOTHER THAT WE ARE HIS, OUR SALVATION IS A GIFT OF GOD, THAT OUR FUTURE IS SECURE.
- WE WORSHIP GOD FOR WHO HE IS – A GOD OF LOVE, COMPASSION, MERCY, AND FORGIVENESS.
- WE REMIND ONE ANOTHER THAT THE TROUBLES OF THIS WORLD ARE NOT THE WRATH OF GOD. WE WILL NOT SUFFER THE WRATH OF GOD.
- WE ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER THAT BECAUSE OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST, WE NOW BELONG TO GOD AND HIS KINGDOM – WE HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS INTO HIS LIGHT.

Shepherds,

I pray that you will be encouraged as we take to heart these great promises of our amazing God.

Steve