

Battle Lines

June 8 | Group Guide

Introduction and questions (20 minutes)

This past Sunday, Gary finished his three-week sermon series called Battle Lines, focusing on the concept of spiritual warfare as described in Ephesians 6:10-18.

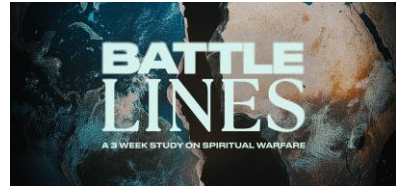
- Gary challenged us to be “amphibious” Christians who recognize that we exist in two realms: the physical and the spiritual. How has this series broadened your understanding of the spiritual realms and the battles that take place there?
- Author GK Chesterton said that the “True soldier fights not because of what is in front of him but because he loves what is behind him.” What are the things and people you love – the ones you would fight spiritual battles for?
- This week’s sermon focused on the “sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God” and praying in the Spirit. Can you share a time when Scripture and prayer helped you win a spiritual battle?

Split into smaller groups to read Scripture, discuss, and pray (25 minutes).

For this group session, you’ll spend some time reflecting on the final two pieces of “armor” in Ephesians 6, as well as some other Bible passages that can shape our thinking about spiritual battles.

Have someone read **Ephesians 6:17-18** aloud. Encourage everyone to follow along in their own Bibles, taking in each word and phrase.

- Which comes more naturally to you: engaging with Scripture or praying? Why?
- Paul teaches us to pray in the Spirit “on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.” On what “occasions” do you most often pray?
- What kinds of prayers and requests do you usually offer? (For example, for those who are sick, for relational conflict, for those who don’t know Jesus.)



- What “occasions” do you *not* tend to pray for? What kinds of prayers do you *not* tend to pray? Could God be inviting you to expand when, how, and about what you pray?

Have someone read **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** and **Romans 12:2**.

- Why is taking thoughts captive an important part of spiritual warfare? What kinds of thoughts do we need to take captive, or help others take captive?
- How can the disciplines of Bible reading and prayer help us take our thoughts captive and renew our minds?

Memorize Scripture (5 minutes).

One way we can arm ourselves is by hiding God’s Word in our hearts. Before coming back together as a large group, take a few minutes to memorize the next couple of verses of Ephesians 6:10-18. Pick up from where you left off last week. Memorize one or two verses more.

Work individually or divide into pairs to memorize.

Note: A more extensive memorization and deep dive experience can be found in the daily devotionals available at thecreek.org/sermons.

Finish with prayer (10 minutes).

Come back together as a large group. Rather than sharing requests, consider opening up a time of prayer where each person listens to the Spirit and prays about whatever they are prompted to share. People can pray for their own needs or the needs of others; once a person prays, other people in the group should feel free to affirm that prayer and add to it as they feel led.