



# UNSEEN REALM

April 14, 2024

## Unseen Realm: Week 2 – The Armour of God – Ephesians 6:10-17

**Big Idea:** The reason why life seems difficult is because there is an unseen realm, comprised of the Devil and demons, opposed to life, goodness, and Jesus. But we are given victory through Jesus and immense resources to stand firm.

**Overview:** It is so easy to determine that all of life's difficulties are due to natural cause and effect. Yet, the Biblical worldview presents another reality in which we need to consider. Ephesians 6 introduces us to the primary enemies of the world, and of the Christian, Satan and the "spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." The Enemy and his cast of fallen angels (or demons), present the opposition behind and the visible evil, sin, and chaos of the world. Yet, among these realities, Jesus has come to defeat, judge, and cast them away. He has done this in the cross and will do it entirely at the end of all things. But today we do find ourselves in a war, where armour (defense) and weapons (offence) are necessary. There is so much happening in this packed six verses that bring explanatory power to the difficulties of our lives, and the immense hope that Jesus brings!

### Life Group Objectives:

Remember why you exist as a group! Life Groups are to:

1. Reflect on this past week's message and passage or dig into the series you are going through as a group. We desire for you to have the Bible play a key role in your time together.
2. Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members. How can you build one another up this week?
3. Reflect on how your group, or as individuals, can play your part to be on mission in your neighborhood, church, or city.

### Conversation starters:

- How have you seen Jesus at work in your life this week?
- What emotions does the conversation about the unseen realm bring up for you?
- What influences our approach or posture towards the reality of the unseen realm as a modern person?

### Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion

**Read Scripture:** Ephesians 6:10-17

### Questions for Discussion:

1. **The Devil vs. 11**
  - Pastor Chris presented a "Fact Sheet" on the Devil. What did you learn?
  - There are three enemies of the Christian. The World (systems opposed to God), The Flesh (our sinful nature) and The Devil (Entity opposed to God and life). Pastor Chris tried to demonstrate through this that not all evil, sin, suffering, or chaos we experience is a direct result, or "attack" from the Devil (an Entity). Why is this an important distinction?
  - What are the errors of believing that the Devil is behind everything, and that there is no Devil at all? What informs both approaches?
  - Often conversation around the Devil can bring fear. What practical comfort do we have in that Jesus has defeated Satan, demons, sin, and death? How do we live aware but not afraid?
2. **Principalities and Powers vs. 12**
  - What situation or problem in your life right now evidences the fact that "our struggle (wrestle) is not against flesh and blood (human problems due to cause and effect)?"
  - Pastor Chris presented a "Fact Sheet" on Demons. What did you learn?

- Pastor Chris argued that while the Devil and demons do not own or possess a Christian, they can and do seek to influence and oppress (see Ephesians 4:27-29). What difference does this make? How can we discern what and where one of these spiritual entities may be at work?
- Have you ever had an experience where you felt, encountered, were influenced by a dark spiritual force before? What was this like?
- What questions does this bring up for you?
- 3. The Armour of God vs. 13-17**
- What defense mechanisms and offensive tools has God given as resources to us in the middle of this battle?
- Which one do you need to arm yourself with in your current moment?
- What steps can you take this week to “stand your ground” with Jesus as you seek to honour and live for Him?

**Listening to God:**

- How has God been present in our discussion so far? What themes have emerged?

**Prayer Prompts and Application:**

- Be sensitive to the group as this can be a heavy discussion. Give people space to process their thoughts and emotions. Create safety and openness to share and pray. Remember, you are not there to fix all the difficulties or places of dissonance, but simply to point them to Jesus!
- Invite members of the group to share prayer requests. Gently nudge people to go a few levels deeper by being specific and vulnerable.
- Pray for clarity as each person thinks about the sphere of influence they have been sent into. Where is God asking you to engage in, being sanctified and sent to do so?

**For Further Study:**

Books:

- *Live no Lies* by John Mark Comer
- *Deliverance* by Jon Thompson
- *Soul Care* by Rob Reimer