

## **Warfare Armor**

Ephesians 6:10-20

### **Discover**

Warfare is the state of conflict between people resulting in battles and bloodshed. Armor is the protective covering worn by warriors to shield their bodies during battle.

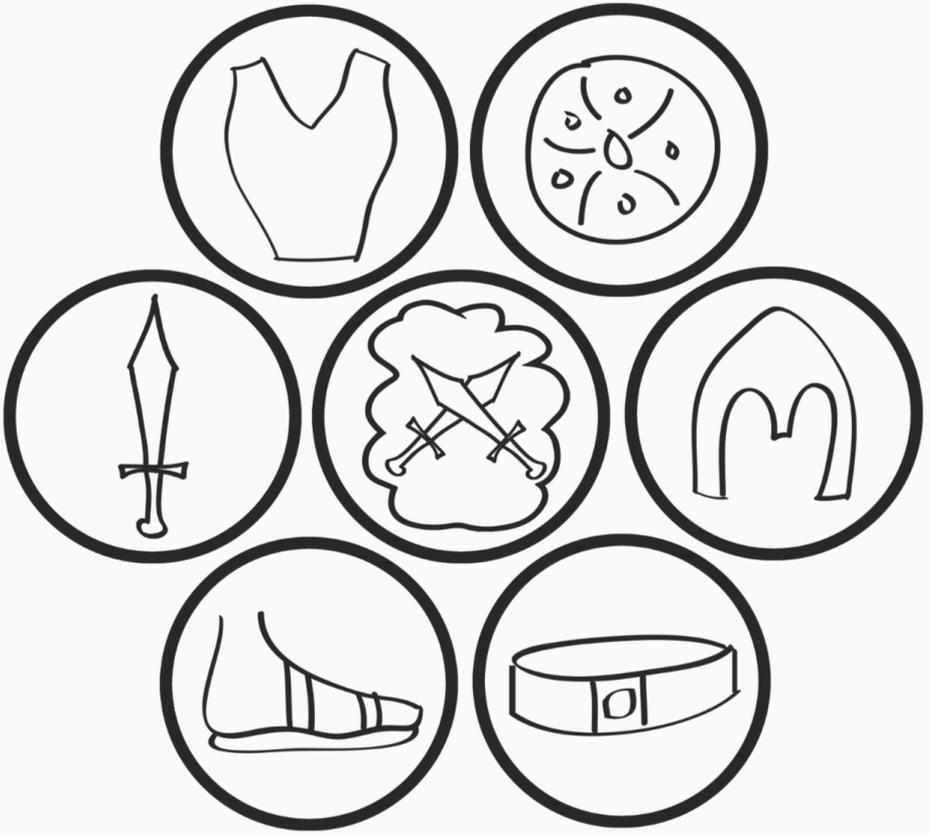
When we decide to follow Jesus, we enter into the frontlines of a spiritual war. Though many do not see spiritual realms or beings, they are real and actively influence our daily lives. The evil powers of darkness try to deceive and distract us from enduring in our faith. (6:12-13)

When Elisha and his servant were surrounded by an army of enemy forces, the servant despaired for his life. The Lord opened his eyes to see an even greater host of warrior angels in the spiritual realm sent from heaven to protect God's messengers from enemy attacks. (2 Kings 6:15-17)

Jesus took three disciples up the mountain, and our Father transfigured Jesus so the disciples could see what he looked like in the spiritual realm. He spoke with the awakened spirits of Moses and Elijah about the future plans and events of his coming eternal kingdom. (Luke 9:28-35)

So much of what we know and understand about heaven, hell, and other spiritual realms and beings originate from dreams, visions, and prophecies recorded in Bible books like Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Jude, and Revelation.

This lesson exposes the spiritual war that has been raging in the heavens since the dragon led a demonic rebellion against God in millennia past. Discover the spiritual armor and weapons Jesus Christ created for his disciples, so we will stand strong and protected as we persevere in our faith through suffering and persecution. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)



# WARFARE ARMOR



EPHESIANS 6:10-20

## **Draw**

Spiritual Battlefield: cloud & swords - Our Father has designed gifts of spiritual armor for us to wear and weapons to wield, so we can stand in his power amidst ongoing spiritual battles against satanic enemies. (6:10-13)

Faith Shield: shield - We take up the shield of faith to stop the enemy's fire arrows from reaching us. The dragon's flaming arrows are designed to embed lies of the enemy within us, causing pride, fear, doubt, and despair. (6:16)

Salvation Helmet: helmet - We put on this helmet to guard our minds and remember essential truths: we have received salvation, we have died in Christ, and we are new creatures free from shame and secure in our God's strong arms. (6:17)

Truth Belt: belt - We buckle up the belt to stand firm against the enemy's lies and temptations. This belt holds everything together in his truth, so that we can identify and expose lies and accusations of the enemy. We reject whatever is false and embrace whatever is true and pure in Christ. (6:14)

Peace Sandals: foot & sandal - We put on these sandals, for we are peacemakers. We first believe and practice the gospel ourselves, then this peace overflows to others. (6:15)

Spirit Sword: sword - We take up the Word of God, the Bible, as a spiritual sword. His truth defeats the devil's lies. His truth cuts through the confusion and condemnation of the evil one so the lost can see Jesus and believe. (6:17)

Righteous Breastplate: breastplate - We put on the breastplate to cover our hearts where we believe and love. The dragon wages war day and night against the purity of our love and the steadfastness of our hope. God covers our hearts with his holiness; he protects us with his grace. (6:14)

## **Discuss**

Ephesians 6:11 describes the devil's schemes to attack us. How have you personally experienced the devil's attacks in your life? Has he ever been successful in knocking you off your feet? If so, how did you get back up and keep going?

Ephesians 6:18 tells us to pray at all times in the Spirit. First Thessalonians 5:17 teaches us to pray continually. How is constant prayer possible? How do you struggle with praying throughout each day? What can we do to pray more often?

Hebrews 4:12-13 also mentions the Word sword of the Holy Spirit with another purpose. Compare the sword's description in both Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12. Why do we need this sword, and how do we wield it correctly?

We see the essential purposes of God's Word in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Imagine a fully armed soldier missing his sword. What happens when a warrior goes into battle without a sword? What is life like when we are not daily in the Word?

## **Disciple**

Let's get practical. Practice putting on the spiritual armor and weapons of God. Make a list of people the Holy Spirit wants you to begin praying for regularly. Whom do you know today that has not heard of Jesus' armor and weapons? What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do next?

## **Dedicate**

Father, thank you for opening our eyes to see the spiritual war waging all around us. Thank you for crafting armor and weapons for the battles we face, and thank you for fighting our battles as we rest in you. Please help us to faithfully put on this armor daily and pray at all times in your Holy Spirit, in Jesus' name and for his glory we pray, amen.