

# BATTLE READY

## Life Groups Discussion Guide June 9, 2019

### **OUTFITTED, Ephesians 6:14-17**

#### **CONNECT**

1. How do you react to the thought that we are in a spiritual battle every day? Throughout your life, how aware have you been of this struggle?

#### **CELEBRATE**

2. God gives spiritual armor to His children as gifts, yet those gifts don't work automatically. Read Ephesians 6:13-17. What do we have to do to take advantage of the benefits of this armor? Practically, what does that look like?
3. How zealous are you for truth? Consider this past week. Where have you expended the most effort to seek truth—from the Bible, from the news, from social media, from your own opinions? How zealously have you sought God's voice over every other voice?
4. Read Romans 3:10-12. If we're putting on the breastplate of righteousness, whose righteousness is it? How do we put this on every day? Or to say it differently, why do we need to preach the gospel to ourselves daily? What happens if we put on self-righteousness instead?
5. Part of the Roman Empire's dominance came from their soldier's readiness to travel and quickness to arrive at the battlefield. How ready do you feel to share the gospel? If God handed you the opportunity to share the gospel with someone this week, what would you say? Take time to practice this with each other.
6. The gospel of peace refers to the peace among believers. We are no longer Jew or Gentile or any other division, but we are one in Christ (Ephesians 2:14-16). Why is this important as we consider the daily reality of spiritual warfare? What happens to our effectiveness in battle if we're attacking each other in our own ranks? See John 13:34-35 & 17:20-23 for more insight.
7. The shield of faith refers to your faith—your trust in the truth of God. If you trust God in every area, your shield can extinguish every dart of the enemy. But if we doubt God or reject pieces of His truth, we make ourselves vulnerable. How can we spot these areas of vulnerability? How do we grow stronger where we are weak? Read Matthew 4:1-11 & 26:36-44.
8. In the Roman army, their shields interlocked, making them invulnerable. Why does Paul borrow this metaphor for the church? Why is it so important for us to pursue the truth together? Give examples.

#### **CONTRIBUTE**

*New Hope Church is a Christ-centered community for all peoples, moving toward Jesus and taking others with us.*

9. In light of our mission statement, consider what it would look like for every member of our church to equip himself or herself daily with this armor. How would it change our church? What effect would it have in our community? How could it change our city?