

1. Motivate

When have you been surprised by the unexpected?

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View at https://watch.liberty.edu/media/1_wiu9wbl1

2. Transition

We can easily be surprised by an unexpected problem.

- However, we need not be destroyed.
- We stand strong with God's armor and the support of others.

3. Bible Study

3.1 We Are in a Spiritual Battle

Listen for who is the enemy.

Ephesians 6:10-13 (NIV) Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

Who is our enemy?

What are some kinds of things that would be included in the devil's schemes to draw us into sin?

What would have to be their source of strength if the Ephesians were to be victorious in spiritual battle?

What did Paul urge them to do?

What kinds of spiritual battles do believers face today?

What is the key to being "strong in the Lord and in his mighty power?"

What are some actions, words, attitudes that help you do this before or during spiritual warfare?

3.2 God Equips and Protects

Listen for a description of spiritual armor.

Ephesians 6:14-17 (NIV) Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

What defensive, offensive equipment do you see in the passage?

Defensive	Offensive

For each of the pieces of equipment, what part of the body does it protect, what ability does it provide?

Armor	Physical area protected or capability provided	Spiritual protection or capability
helmet of salvation		
breastplate of righteousness		
shoes of the gospel		
sword of the Spirit (Scripture)		
belt of truth		
shield of faith		

What would happen if we left out one or more of the elements of *spiritual* armor?

Spiritual armor element	Problem when missing
Truth/scripture/gospel	
Faith	
Righteousness	
Salvation	

How do we consciously “put on” this spiritual armor?

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We Stand Together in Spiritual Battle

3.3 Pray for One Another

Listen for the importance of prayer.

Ephesians 6:18-20 (NIV) And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. 19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

What connections exist between these verses and the previous passage, verses 10-17?

For what needs did Paul ask the Ephesians to pray?

Why is prayer an important tool in spiritual battle?

What do you think it means to “pray in the Spirit?”

What are specific ways we can pray for one another as we engage in spiritual warfare?

