

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

OCTOBER 25

"THE GOOD NEWS IS..."
WEEK 4 - EPHESIANS 6:10-20

Scripture References

- Ephesians 6:10-20
- Hebrews 11:6
- 1 Peter 5:8
- 1 Samuel 17

Quick Re-Cap

Every good news story has a little bad news first. The bad news here is that we have a real enemy. The Bible calls him the devil, and he is like a hungry lion who wants to trick us with lies and pull us away from God. He loves to go after those who feel weak or alone. But here is the good news. **Jesus already won the victory when He died on the cross and rose again on the third day!** That means our job is not to beat the devil by ourselves. Our job is to stand firm in what Jesus has already done. Paul tells us to be strong in the Lord and in His might, not in our own. Then he describes God's armor, and every piece is a gift. The belt of truth is about standing on what is right and true in God's eyes. The breastplate of righteousness is Jesus' goodness given to us, because we could never earn our own. The shoes of peace mean we are ready to share the gospel. The shield of faith means trusting God even when we can't see the way. The helmet of salvation guards our minds by reminding us we belong to Jesus. The sword of the Spirit is God's Word, which we use to answer the devil's lies. And how do we stand? By praying at all times. Prayer is not just asking for things. It is how we rest in God's power while He does the fighting.

Illustration

Imagine it is a stormy night and the power suddenly goes out at your house. Everything goes dark, so you grab a flashlight and click the button. Nothing happens. You click it again and again. You shake it. You squeeze it as tight as you can and say, "I'm trying my hardest!" Then your brother or sister walks over and says, "It's not about how hard you try. Your flashlight needs batteries." They pop in new ones from the kitchen drawer, and the light comes on instantly. You never had to make the light. Your flashlight just needed what makes it work. You are like that flashlight! **You need God's power to defeat the darkness of the enemy.** You need the strength that only He gives, and He gives it freely to everyone who belongs to Jesus and relies on Him to provide it.

Application

We are told to be strong in the Lord. That means that when you feel scared or tempted, don't just try harder. Ask God for His strength first. **Learn God's voice.** God's voice sounds like God's Word. Feelings can be wrong, so check what you think you heard against the Bible. Read a few verses together as a family each day. **Put on the whole armor.** Name each piece out loud together each morning and thank God for it. **Stand and pray.** You don't have to win the battle. Jesus did. Pray every day for each other, and pray for someone in your family who needs God's help this week.

Convo Starters

- Why do you think Paul says to be strong in the Lord instead of in ourselves?
- How can we tell if a thought or feeling is really God speaking? What should we check it against?
- What is something you try to handle on your own that you could pray about instead?