

START

Take a moment, go around the circle and introduce yourself. Each person needs to answer this question:

If you were allowed to travel back in time, using a time machine, which time would you travel back to and why?

SHARE

The fact is that we all fight battles in our lives. The question is do we invite God into those battles and are we really willing to listen to the answers and direction God provides us? Let's continue on by reading the key verses of this week's message:

Armor of God // Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 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.

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

If you were going into battle with a group of people and starting to walk into harm's way, what things would be important to you?

Take a moment and go around the group and talk about why you think each piece of armor is important in the life of a follower of Christ.

Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, then answer the following question: Why is it important to "take captive every thought"?

GROW

Throughout the message, we learned that we all face battles. Although we are supposed to be prepared for battle, ultimately the battle belongs to the Lord. Our battle is not against flesh and blood, but actual spiritual forces of evil. We are commanded to stand our ground, to put on the full armor of God and to pray and invite God into our battles.

Let's read all of **2 Chronicles 20:1-30** together and we will camp on the key verses below:

The Battle // 2 Chronicles 20:15-17

He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. *Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.*'"

Jehoshaphat's first response was fear, an appropriate response in the circumstances. Jahaziel later counseled, "Do not fear" (v. 17), counsel that occurs 365 times in the Bible, enough for each day's quota of fearful situations. Jehoshaphat's second response was (literally) to "give his face to seek Yahweh." In fact, the two verbs "feared and gave" begin the verse in Hebrew almost as one verb. Jehoshaphat knew how to deal with fear. Seeking the Lord is stressed here with two synonyms, the first (*dāraš*) translated "inquire" and the other (*biqqāš*) translated "seek." (New American Commentary)

All of us have battles in our lives. After reading the story of King Jehoshaphat, what is one thing that stands out to you personally?

Why does God still ask us to "take up your position; stand firm" even though He promises victory?

 **MOVE**

Now that we have taken some time to understand how God desires for us to seek him, to listen and to stand ready to fight, let's reflect on one of God's promises to us:

Proverbs 21:31

The horse is made ready for battle, but victory rests with the Lord.

Pick one question below and share with the group your answer:

- *What is one thing you are going to do differently this week after this Life Group meeting?*
- *Is there someone you could help who is going through a battle?*
- *Do you need to be more proactive and ready yourself for battles in life, or do you need more help remembering to ask God to help you in the battle?*

 **PRAY**

Let's put into practice what we have been learning by praying for each other.