



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Three

We continue our series, Deliver Us From Evil. This week we heard about the Biblical call to stand up to evil. Ephesians 6 describes the way God equips us to be able to stand. It requires putting on the fullness of Jesus and “wearing” him everywhere we go. If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/signup and click on Small Groups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray the Lord’s Prayer together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: EPHESIANS 6.10-13

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.

- Paul teaches that our strength comes from the power of God. But the power of God doesn’t just shield us from evil, it allows us to stand in the face of it. The struggles we face often seem to be against people, groups, or ideas. This passage points out that our true adversary is less obvious but very prevalent in the world around us. Have you ever felt compelled to take a stand against evil? Where did you go for strength to do that?
- *Pray that today you would be strong in the mighty power of God.*

TUESDAY: EPHESIANS 6.14

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place

- Your belt holds it all together. The truth of God is not something you own and manipulate, but something that owns you. The righteousness (made-right-ness) you have been given by God in Jesus Christ protects your heart, protects the core of who you are. In what ways does God's truth hold you together? How does it help you to stand when you don't feel like it?
- *Pray for spiritual core strength today, that the righteousness of God would cover you.*

WEDNESDAY: EPHESIANS 6.15

and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

- Ready, set, go! In the days when nearly everything can be delivered to your doorstep, I've had more ill-fitting shoes in my wardrobe than ever before. Shoes that don't fit quite right can cause problems over time. If I'm not ready to walk in peace, I'll walk in something else that can be destructive over time. What practices prepare you to take your steps in peace?
- *Pray for a readiness to walk in peace at all times.*

THURSDAY: EPHESIANS 6.16

take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

- Faith is something you pick up and carry around with you. When flaming arrows are headed your way (I hope that never happens to you by the way!) you will reach for a source of strength and protection. If we keep ahold of our faith and never put it down, it will be in place when we are targeted by evil (which surely will happen). How do you picture this shield of faith?
- *Pray for a faith that would become so much a part of you that you never set it down.*

FRIDAY: EPHESIANS 6.17

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

- When you belong to Christ, the very part of you from which the impulse to breathe, think, create, speak and act comes is covered by salvation. And the tool you carry is “of the Spirit” and it is the word of God. How does the word of God go before you and reveal what is true about the world around you?
- *Pray with thanksgiving for the salvation that covers over your daily thoughts and actions, and for the Word that sheds light on the world around you.*

SATURDAY: 1 CORINTHIANS 16.13-14

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. ¹⁴ Do everything in love.

- The underlying wars of our time exist on the battlefield of the heart. We don't need to live in fear, but we do need to stand on guard against the lies that can sway our hearts. Which I think is why Paul puts all of this in the context of love. Be strong, be courageous, stand firm, remain on guard--in love.
- *Pray that the love of God would be the place where you stand and practice courage.*

- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

- In this message, we heard about our posture in the face of evil. Do we cower? Are our chests puffed up based on our own strength? Do we sit? Do we stand? How are each of these postures manifest in the world around you?
- Bad posture in the face of evil looks like division (not disagreement), self preservation, and the neglect of outsiders. What are corrective measures for division, self preservation, and the neglect of those on the outside?