



Imagine getting the chance to meet the Apostle Paul, that he came to your town and set up a home base there and started a ministry to the entire region of Asia Minor! That is exactly what happened to the people of Ephesus. A place once recognized for being a center of pagan worship has now become a “beach-head” for spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe that Paul worked in Ephesus around AD 55-59 and remained there, with the people, for about three years (see Acts 19:10, 20:31). After leaving Ephesus, Paul found himself imprisoned. Being incarcerated and with no other way to spread the Good News, Paul decides to write letters, also known as Epistles.

1. Neal shared about an unwanted spiritual encounter that he had while in college. Share about a time that you had an unwanted spiritual encounter. What were some of the main details and how did you respond in the situation?
2. **Read Ephesians 6:10-12.** Paul encourages us to find our strength in the Lord. So often we are great at doing things on our own. **Read 1 Samuel 30:6, Psalm 28:7, Isaiah 40:31, and Jeremiah 17:15.** Discuss what it looks like to find strength in God.
3. Paul commands us to put on the full armor of God to protect us in the spiritual battle. **Read I Thessalonians 5:8, Romans 13:12, and Isaiah 59:17.** What do these passages teach us about the full armor of God as we follow Jesus?
4. The Bible has a number of adjectives for the devil. One is a schemer. When you think about a person who is a schemer what comes to mind? Knowing that, how can you be more aware of the schemes of the devil?
5. **Read Ephesians 6:13-15.** The first half of the armor of God deals with truth, peace, and righteousness. **Read Exodus 20:16, Philippians 3:9, and John 14:27.** What changes in your life when you fit yourself with this armor?
6. **Read Ephesians 6:16-17.** The second half of the armor of God focuses on faith, salvation, and God’s word. **Read Romans 10:17, Acts 4:12, and John 1:1-5, 14.** What changes in your life when you fit yourself with this armor?
7. **Read Ephesians 6:18-20.** Paul takes time to focus on having a life dedicated to prayer. He longs for wisdom, boldness, and clarity in sharing the truth of God. Where, or how, would you like to see your prayer life grow this year?
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for boldness to share Jesus with your friends.