

# Weekly Study Guide

August 19, 2012

## Daily Readings

Monday	Read Ephesians 6:10-17. The Bible uses many different kinds of images to communicate spiritual truth, including battle or war imagery. What has been your experience with this kind of imagery in the context of faith? What has been helpful? What may have been hurtful?
Tuesday	Reflect today on Ephesians 6:10. Where do you usually find your strength? How might God be inviting you to rely more on His strength than yours?
Wednesday	Read Ephesians 6:11-12. Ephesians says that "our struggle is not against flesh and blood." Instead we are taking our stand "against the devil's schemes." Take time today to pray for God's insight and strength in the struggles you face.
Thursday	Read Ephesians 6:11-12 again today. These verses not only teach us to see the spiritual nature of the struggles we face. They also tell us <i>not</i> to see other people, "flesh and blood," as our real enemies. We might be better off to see other people as victims or even as the battleground of a spiritual struggle. Do you need to see anyone differently whom you might otherwise see as an enemy?
Friday	Read Ephesians 6:13-17. You are armed with truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God. Reflect on these gifts of God, and consider how one or more of them might be helpful in the spiritual struggles you face.
Saturday	We often imagine battles or weapons as individual affairs. But these instructions in Ephesians 6 are all addressed to Christians in the plural, and they imagine a kind of ancient warfare fought as teams, not as a lone ranger. Who can you count on to help you in your spiritual life? Who needs your help? If you don't have ready answers to these questions, pray about them and consider how you might take steps to form relationships with other Christians that will strengthen your relationship with God.

