

# STAND FIRM

## A STUDY OF THE ARMOR OF GOD



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# MISSION

## 1

## MISSION 1: BASIC TRAINING (EPHESIANS 6:10-13)

### Combat Intelligence: The Enemy

You have an enemy. If you are a follower of Christ, this enemy wants to ruin your reputation. He wants to keep you from leading others to Christ. He wants to utterly destroy you. (1 Peter 5:8) If you have not yet given your life to God, your enemy wants to keep you from doing just that. He will trick you and lie to you and make you believe that no one could ever really love you the way God does.

This enemy doesn't sit behind you in class. This enemy isn't even the class bully. This enemy didn't steal your boyfriend or girlfriend. This enemy isn't anyone you know from your everyday life. Unless you know who this enemy is, where he is, and what he can do, you will have a difficult time defeating him.<sup>1</sup>

The Instruction Manual (the Bible) tells you exactly what you need to know. Ephesians 6:12 says, "Our fight is not against human beings. It is against the rulers, the authorities and the powers of this dark world. It is against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly world." (NIRV) What does all of that mean? What it means is that you and I are not fighting against an enemy we can see. The enemy is spiritual. Your enemy is the devil and his demons.

### The Battle Plan: Be Prepared to Stand Firm

Our enemy likes to pick fights. What should we do to be ready? Can't we just run away from the fight and forget about our enemy? The Instruction Manual (the Bible) tells us what to do. "Let the Lord make you strong. Depend on His mighty power. Put on all of God's armor. (Ephesians 6:10-11a NIRV) The Instruction Manual also tells us why we should be ready with God's armor. "so that you can remain strong against the devil's evil plans." (Ephesians 6:11b NIV) Your whole Christian life is one big campaign against evil, even though there are specific times where the battle is

### OBJECTIVES:

- To know who the enemy is
- To be prepared to stand firm
- To get acquainted with the uniform
- The swearing-in

### FROM THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL:

(Memory Verse)

"I have told you these things, so that you can have peace because of me. In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world."  
(John 16:33 NIRV)

thicker and more dangerous. That means that we shouldn't run away. Instead, we should stand firm, prepared or battle ready because evil days will come. (Ephesians 6:13)

### **The Uniform: God's Armor**

Now that you know what you're up against, let's get down to the basics. "So put on all of God's armor. Evil days will come. But you will be able to stand up to anything. And after you have done everything you can, you will still be standing." (Ephesians 6:13)

We have mentioned the Armor of God several times, but what is it? Well, most importantly it is God-given and just like this battle we are in, the armor is spiritual. Paul, the apostle who wrote the book of Ephesians to the faithful believers in Ephesus, had been arrested for his faith and he was chained to a Roman soldier. Paul became very familiar with the armor that those soldiers wore and he wrote about how to prepare for spiritual battles. The Armor of God is made up of several pieces, just like physical armor: the belt of truth, shoes of readiness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit. We will talk about each of those pieces in the weeks to come, but each is vitally important in our fight against evil because most of the fighting is hand-to-hand combat.

### **The Swearing-In: Have you enlisted?**

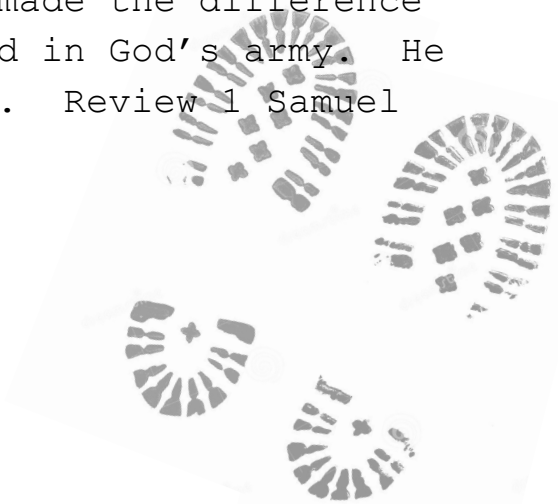
The information you have heard today may scare you even though it is not meant to. This information is to make you realize you need to be prepared. If you are not yet a follower of God, you are not prepared. Earlier in the letter to the Ephesians, Paul explains, "You were living in your sins and lawless ways. But in fact you were dead. You used to live as sinners when you followed the ways of this world. You served the one who rules over the spiritual forces of evil. He is the spirit who is now at work in those who don't obey God...But God loves us deeply. He is full of mercy. So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin." (Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-5) God's grace can save you, if you will surrender to Him. And when you are a follower of God you can stand on His promise that "the One who is in you is powerful. He is more powerful than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4 NIV)

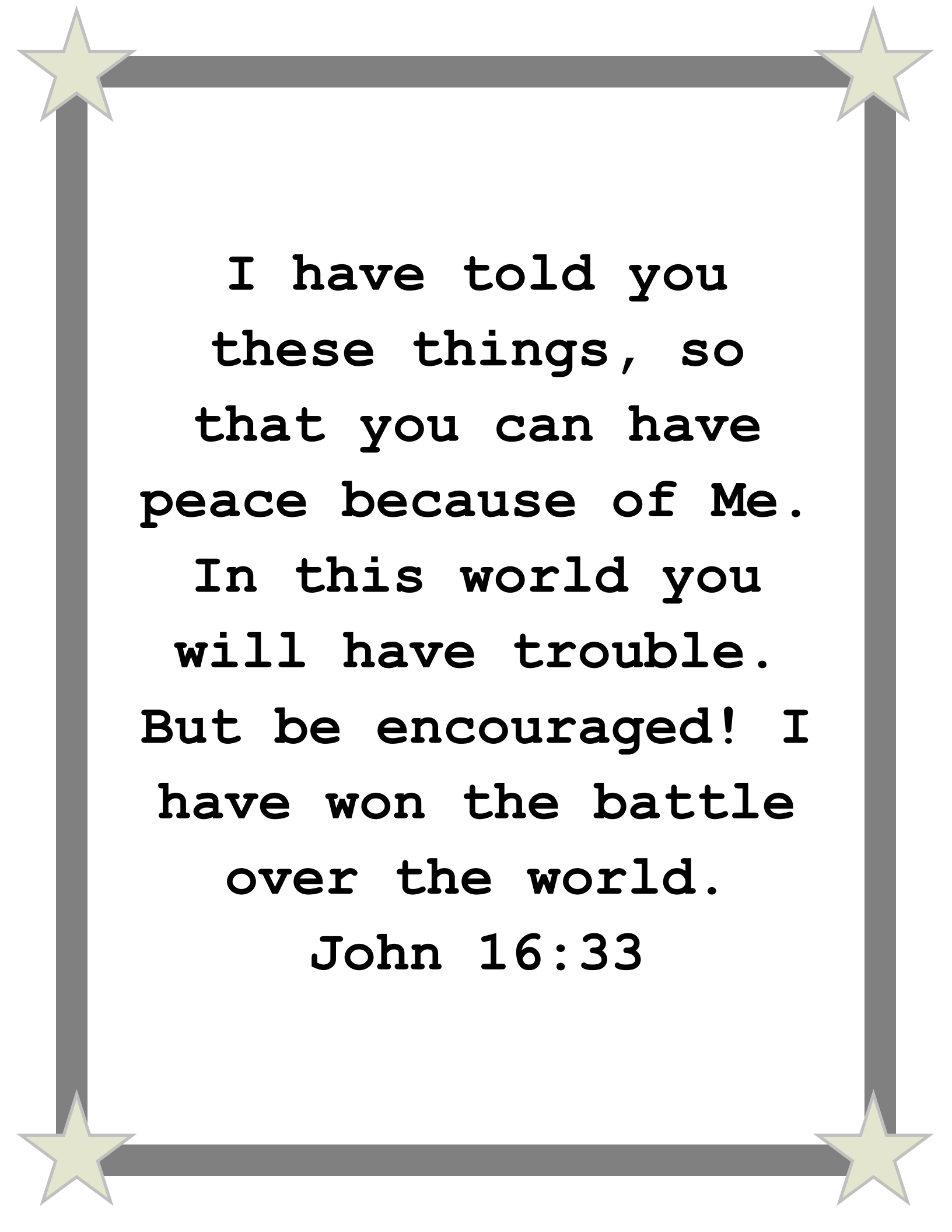
Whose team are you on? Have you enlisted? Are you ready to be sworn in and issued your equipment?

# ACTIVITIES



- Make a paper chain to remember Paul's imprisonment. Write a word from the memory verse on each link. Be sure to include the Scripture reference.
- Make Bible covers from craft paper, paper bags, duct tape, etc. Label them "Instruction Manual."
- Begin memorizing Ephesians 6:10-20 (Spiritual Basic Training). Do a verse or phrase at a time and make up hand motions that will help your students remember.
- Run Relay Races to enforce the idea of Basic Training.
- Learn and sing "The Battle Belongs to the Lord."
- Review the Plan of Salvation. Make bookmarks, bracelets, crosses or whatever will make the plan of salvation clear to your students.
- **Extra Training:** Look up the following verses and discover Combat Intelligence of your enemy. Genesis 3:1, Revelation 12:9, John 8:44, 1 Peter 5:8-9, 1 John 3:8, 2 Corinthians 11:14-15, Matthew 13:19, and 2 Timothy 2:26.
- **Extra Training:** Read 1 Samuel 17:1-50. David went out against Goliath with just a sling and a stone. King Saul's armor was too big for him to use. What made the difference in that battle is that David had enlisted in God's army. He knew that God had already won the battle. Review 1 Samuel 17:1-45.





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John 16:33

# WORD SEARCH



r r e n d e r t h e r e n e m  
y m n e e h t e n l i s t s i  
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d s t t l e r e t d y r e n d  
s u h o t n e m u y e d e v i  
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s t n d f i l i v e d e h t h  
e d g v i l e r o m r r a s d  
o d s a r m o m r e n e m y h

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the enemy

the devil

not human beings

put on

God's armor

battle ready

surrender

enlist

# WORD SEARCH

## Answers

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