



Zoom & In Person Community Group Lessons – May 25 & 29, 2022

Armor of God – The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace

Main Point

- The third piece of armor are the shoes of the gospel of peace. When we put on these shoes and remember the gospel every day, we can follow Jesus instead of Satan and tell everyone we meet about God's love.

Scripture

- Ephesians 6:14-15
 - 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.
- 1 Peter 3:15
 - But make sure that in your hearts you honor Christ as Lord. Always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks you about the hope you have. Be ready to give the reason for it. But do it gently and with respect.

Prayer Time

- Spend a couple of minutes in praise and prayer to God.

Praise and Worship

- Perfect Peace – Laura Story
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UpfatdyFtY>
- Kari Jobe – Be Still My Soul
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq59iE3MhXM>

Bible Verse Memorization

- Ephesians 6:11
 - "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

Review of Last Week

- Last week, we learned about the breastplate of righteousness – it protects our hearts from sinning.
- Righteous means being right with God, to have the right attitude and actions, and not to let sin into our hearts.
- The help we get from God is called the breastplate of righteousness. This means that when we put on the breastplate of righteousness, we are protecting our hearts from sin and learning to be right before God.

- How many of you made your heart right by correcting a wrong you had done, like apologizing for something, or including someone, showing kindness to someone...?

Lesson

- How many of you, right now, are wearing shoes? How many of you will put on a pair so shoes today? Why do we wear them? Well I wear shoes to protect my feet and keep them dry and warm (or cool if I am wearing sandals).
- Why do you think shoes are included in the Armor of God?
- **For soldiers**, to do battle, a soldier must be prepared to go, and good strong sandals were absolutely necessary. Likewise, before we can do battle, we must be prepared, but our preparation comes from the Gospel. The Gospel is the good news about Jesus, and through it we can tell others how they can have peace with God.



- We are told to prepare our feet with the preparation that comes with the Gospel of Peace.
- What is the Gospel of Peace? – Jesus came and died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven. This means that if we believe in Jesus Christ and ask Him to forgive us of our sins, to be our forever friend and Saviour, we can live a peaceful life without worry! We don't have to worry because we know we are going to heaven.
- Why do you think we have to prepare our feet with this? – our job as warriors for God is to let as many people as we can to know about the Gospel. One way we can do this is to tell them about the ABC's of salvation.



- What is the ABC's of salvation?



- "A" means you **ACCEPT** that you are a sinner and need somebody to help you out of your sins.
- "B" means you **BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ has already died for all of our sins and wants you to follow Him for the rest of your life and someday go to heaven.
- "C" means you **CONFESS** your sins to Jesus and ask Him to come into your heart and forgive you of your sins.

- If you haven't already done this in your own life, how can you show other people how to do it? If we say that we love Jesus, we need to act like we love Jesus, we need to walk the walk.
- Picture this: if a friend said he went fishing and said he caught a really big fish, would you want to see it to believe it? Probably. If he showed you the big fish, then you would believe him.
- Being a Christian is kind of the same way. When we say we love Jesus, but we don't act like we do, we are not walking the walk.
- The shoes of the Gospel of Peace help us to remember to **FOLLOW** Jesus. When we are following Jesus and doing what He wants us to do, we cannot follow Satan, and we cannot do what Satan wants us to do. It is important to put on the shoes of the Gospel of Peace every day, so we can tell others about Jesus, and keep ourselves from following Satan.
- Just like having a good pair of shoes can help us walk across rough terrain, having confidence in Christ allows us to boldly proclaim His name. While we may face persecution in this life, we can rest in knowing the Savior of the world loves us and cares for us.
- Having our feet fitted with the shoes of the gospel of peace allows us to be ready to share God with others at all times. As Christians, we should always be prepared, as we never know when an opportunity may arise to share the good news of the gospel with someone else. Ultimately, the shoes of peace equip us to fight for Christ in the spiritual battles we face.
- How do we put on the shoes of the Gospel of Peace?
 - Ephesians 6:15 says that we "put on the readiness that comes with the gospel of peace." This means we have to be ready to tell others about Jesus.



- 1 Peter 3:15 tells us how to do this. Read the verse for them.
 - But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”
- When we put on these shoes and remember the gospel every day, we are able to follow Jesus instead of Satan and tell everyone we meet about God’s love.

Application and Group Discussion

- Discuss these questions:
 - Why should we wear shoes? What advantage do wearing shoes on our feet give us? (*Our shoes equip us to walk through rough areas; in the same way, having hope in Jesus helps us walk through the trials we face*)
 - What is the gospel? (*good news – that Jesus died on the cross so we could go to heaven*)
 - How does knowing this give us peace? (*we know that we will get to heaven to be with Jesus one day*)
 - How do we prepare or make ourselves ready with the gospel of peace? (*read our Bibles so that when people ask you questions about Jesus, we can answer them*)

Live it out Challenge

- This week, do you need to know more about Jesus to be able to tell your friends and family? Try to read your Bible every day. It doesn’t matter what you read, just open your Bible and read a verse or two, or have someone read it to you. Some verses might include (have workers or volunteers help you find one):
 - John 3:16
 - 1 John 1:9
 - John 14:6
 - Matthew 28:18-20
 - Matthew 6:33
 - Matthew 22:37-40



Shoes of the Gospel of Peace Word Search

Find the words below in the word search.



Words

ARMOR

SHOES

GOSPEL

PEACE

PREPARE

ACCEPT

BELIEVE

CONFESS

BIBLE

VERSE

The Armor of God
The Sandals of the Gospel



Ephesians 6:13-17