



Sermon Discussion Guide

modernfamily
the Gospel of the Church


"Be Strong"

Ephesians 6:10-20

Rev. Ray Cortese, November 15 & 16, 2014

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read Ephesians 6:10-20. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 We like being strong. The American idolatry is personal peace and affluence. How does this square with the Bible? How have you been forced in your life to admit that you are weak? How are prayer and weakness connected?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in *one phrase or sentence* (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, "What was the sermon about on Sunday?" what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

BE STRONG: OPPOSITION

- 3 How does Western culture respond to the idea of evil and the devil? How would you respond to someone who says to you, "The devil does not exist; that is just primeval superstition"?

- 4 What does the devil hate? What are the schemes that he uses to attempt to accomplish his mission?
- 5 What lies does the devil tell people today about God? What does it mean when the Bible calls the devil “the accuser of the brethren”? Have you ever felt accused by Satan?
- 6 Why don’t we ultimately overestimate the devil and his power?

BE STRONG: ARMOR

- 7 Why can’t you wait until the middle of the fight to put on the armor of God? Why is it folly to say, “I don’t need Prayer Week – my life is going pretty good right now”?
- 8 What are the daily spiritual skirmishes that take place in your life? Think of anger, impatience, and worry.
- 9 In your own words, what does it mean to “put on the armor of God”? How do you “armor up”? What was the point of Ray’s illustration about his grandson.

BE STRONG: PRAYER

- 10 Which of the following that Ray said was most helpful to you about how to pray:
 - a. Pray in the Spirit
 - b. Pray fervently
 - c. Pray honestly
 - d. Pray desperately
 - e. Pray for one another
- 11 How are you going to participate in Prayer Week? If you already have, how was it?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- ✠ How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?