

Bible Study Ephesians 6:10-17

1. Read Ephesians 6:10-17.

2. Bible Project, “The New Humanity.”

- a. In the Bible, there are two realms, the _____, where we dwell and the heavens, where _____ dwells. How does this confirm or challenge your conceptions of heaven and earth?
- b. The tree of life. “Sharing in God’s life transforms our _____ so that we can inhabit heaven and earth at the same time.” How do the people at your table understand being in God’s presence? Psalm 114:7-8; Luke 1:19; Hebrews 9:24; Isaiah 6:1-7
- c. A spiritual rebel (Satan) get Adam and Eve exiled from the garden and thus cut off from eternal life. Now they live in fear, _____, and violence. How do you see the connection between rebellion against God and sin? Hebrews 3:13-19
- d. In Jesus, God and humanity are _____.
- e. Jesus opened a way back to eternal life and being a new kind of _____.
- f. Evil spiritual forces _____ us through their lies. Examples: “Oh what wicked webs we weave when we first practice to deceive;” giving power to the other in conflict. Other examples? Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:13-18
- g. When Jesus rises, He has a new body that can live in both heaven and earth. He is the picture of a new humanity.
- h. What does it mean to transform our imagination? Look up Genesis 6:5. Where do you think the King James Version places the word imagination in this verse?

Gene Edward Veith writes, “Our knowledge of God must come from his revelation of himself to us, that is, through his Word, which may in no way be replaced by human reason, emotion, will, or imagination. Imagination is indeed the source of all idolatry (the “graven images” that begin with mental images) and all false religions (which we imaginatively construct to evade the true God)” (*Imagination Redeemed*, 16). How can our imagination betray us or be used to God’s glory?

3. Read again verse 10 and then read Ephesians 3:14-21. Based on these verses, what strength do we have for the battle? We'll make a list on the marker board.
4. What kind of warfare are we engaged in according to verses 11-12? Read excerpt N.T. Wright. Read 1 Peter 5:6-11.
5. Read verses 13-17. We will list the six pieces of armor God has provided for us. I will assign one piece to each table, and that table will identify a specific way we might use it today.
 - a. Which piece of armor is difficult for you to utilize and why?
 - b. How can you learn to actively "take up" that weapon?
6. In what way is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, an offensive weapon in contrast to the other defensive weapons?
7. In verse 13, St. Paul urges us to "Stand your ground." This is a military term meaning to "to take over," "to hold a watch post," or "to hold out in a critical position on a battlefield." What sorts of things would cause soldiers to break formation? What's the impact? How does the church contribute to our understanding of St. Paul's analogy of soldiers? What sorts of things make us (and others) want to break formation?