

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Fireproof” Ephesians 6:16 Dec 15, 2018

Getting Started

Faith becomes **activated** or **devastated** in this life’s journey. What will you do, how will you respond when life gets tough on purpose because the enemy is trying to destroy you? Will you fight or will you fold?

When you became a Christian, did anyone warn you that you were now in a war and would be attacked with the intent of being destroyed?

Share with us how your early experience as a Christian shocked or surprised you based on how prepared you were for the attacks that came against you.

Going Deeper

1. The Significance of the Shield: *“take up the shield”*

A. Distinction: Two Shields - one for hand to hand combat, one to be used by the company of soldiers.

B. Dimensions: Hand Shield (Circular) vs. Body Shield (Square)

1. **Defense:** “phalanx” Movable Wall or Protected Shelter

How do you fight against the Devil’s attacks on your own?

How do you fight against the Devil’s attacks with a group of believers beside you?

2. The Setback of the Shield: “flaming darts”

A. The Deadliness of the Dart:

- i. Damaged from a Distance
- ii. Destroyed due to Deflection

B. The Destruction of the Dart:

- i. Dipped into Pitch
- ii. Ignited to Spread

Think of how much our world has changed since the times this was written. Instead of having to be ‘in range’ to strike you, now the Devil can attack you through people far away on the internet, through social media, or in a group you belong to, or through a family member or so-called friend who lives far away. The Devil can also hurt you so badly that you end up taking out your hurt on others (hurt people hurt people) and thus ignite and spread his attack even further.

What are some practical ways you can defend against this?

3. The Secret in the Shield: “extinguish”

1. **The Link:** Unified Soldiers
2. **The Leather:** Neutralized Arrows
3. **The Lacquer:** Baptized the Shield

By standing together defensively (image of unity), having ‘thick skin’ (like leather), and knowing that I am ‘in Christ’ (baptized), you and I can extinguish the Devil’s darts. Why is this true? How can you put it into practice?

4. The Spiritualization of the Shield: “of the evil one”

A. The Shield is Faith:

- i. **Faith Defined:** “*in all circumstances take up the shield*”

Key Concept: Faith is the Combination of Confidence and Commitment towards Christ. (Hebrews 11:6)

- ii. **Flames Drenched:** “*extinguish all the flaming darts*”

1. Unified: In Christ
2. Neutralized: Authority
3. Baptized: Holy Spirit

B. Faith is the Shield: “with which you can”

- i. **Claim God’s Promises:** Recall God’s Faithfulness and Devotion
- ii. **Claim God’s Provision:** Rest in Forgiveness and Deliverance
- iii. **Claim God’s Peace:** Reject Fear and Doubt

Take Away: You will either extinguish the bombs of the enemy because of faith or you will extinguish the blessings that God desires to give you because of doubt.

Make a list of Bible verses to memorize together as a family or small group that will remind you of who you are in Christ, and remove any doubt about your identity when you are attacked. Here are a few to get you started: Romans 8:37, 15:7, Colossians 2:10, 3:12, Ephesians 2:10, John 1:12