Hook - Getting to know one another

* *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
* As we are at the end of our series on Ephesians, what from the book has been sticking with you?
* Describe a time when you tried to stand firm against a continuous force (a rushing river or current, or a strong wind, perhaps). What stands out about that experience?
* How have dark spiritual forces factored into your faith and worldview? Has it been something of emphasis? Something that has been hard to believe in?

Book - Scripture

* *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand* ***what the text is saying****:*
* Prior to digging into Ephesians 6, it may be helpful to build context into the biblical worldview of forces of spiritual darkness as a small group. Some suggestions:
  + This video from the Bible Project summarizes the topic well: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/divine-council/#fn-11>
  + For deeper discussion (including honest discussion of the challenge of believing in spiritual darkness, as well as a great linking of spiritual forces into Ephesians), Chapter 4 of this podcast is a great listen (So, from 49:49-61:26). <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/theme-god-e3-spiritual-warfare/>
* As Paul is wrapping up all he has mentioned in Ephesians, consider quickly reading some of his key points:
  + Ephesians 1: 18-20
  + Ephesians 2: 13-16
  + Ephesians 3: 6
  + Ephesians 4: 1-6
* **Read Ephesians 6:10-20**
* What is communicated about what is wrong with the world, and with humans?
* What attributes are believers commanded to put on?
  + Which are more defensive? Which offensive?
* What does the text say about how we are to resist the spiritual forces of evil?
  + What is the role of believers in this resistance?
  + What is the role of God in this resistance?

Look - Connections to our world today

* *This section focuses on implications about* ***what this text means*** *about what’s wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
* What is the worldview of who our struggle is with as believers?
  + How would our worldview be different without an awareness or belief in the forces of evil and spiritual darkness?
* Think of the range of attributes of the armor.
  + How do they fit with what believers are called to in the name of unity in Ephesians 4:1-6?
  + How should we put on each these attributes collectively as the body of Christ?
* What would the opposite of these attributes?
  + How do the forces of darkness lure us into those opposites today?
  + How would those opposites lead us to become more divided?

Took - Personal Application

* *This application focuses on* ***how God is calling us to respond****. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
* Where do you find it difficult to see the true enemy as spiritual, rather than in other people?
* Where are you weary in the face of the constant work of the evil one?
* Where do you need to put on more of the armor of God?
* How can we support one another as a small group in these areas of need in the days and weeks ahead?

Time of Prayer