

# Ephesians 6

## Background

Ephesians 5 saw Paul continuing to build upon the foundations laid in the previous chapters of his letter, especially from chapter 4. How that the groundwork for unity amongst ALL believers has been laid, it was time to talk about how we walk as believers and then start to transition into what that looks like in the marriage relationship. Ephesians 6 takes it even further, as he brings in children and bondservants as well.

Paul exhorts us to walk in love, walk in the light, and to walk in wisdom. This is all possible with the indwelling Holy Spirit and with that our call to be imitators of Christ. These exhortations are crucial to the believer. In fact, if one isn't walking in these ways, then one should examine themselves to see if Christ is really in them.

Paul then moves onto the marriage relationship and how that relates to Christ's relationship with His bride, the church. Paul exhorts wives to submit to their husbands as they are the appointed head of the household. Husbands are to walk worthy of that huge responsibility while also loving their wives. This framework for the marriage relationship is representative to the relationship of Christ and His church. Just like husbands give themselves for their wives, Christ gave Himself for the church.

As we move onto the final chapter of Ephesians, what truths are we going to discover? What of the famed "Armor of God?" Read on and let's study together.

## Day 1 - Read and Memorize

1. Read the chapter at least twice. If possible, use different translations. Optionally, have the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.
2. Consider and start memorizing the verse below:

### **Ephesians 6:12-13:**

*"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."*

## Day 2 - Observations

3. In verses 1-4, **what** exhortation is given to children? **What** exhortation is given to fathers?

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4. In verses 6-9, **what** exhortation is given to bondservants? **What** exhortation is given to masters?
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5. In verse 12, Paul lists out for the reader **what** is “wrestled against.” List those down below.
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6. Verses 14-17 gives the reader the famed “Armor of God.” **What** are the various pieces of this full bodied armor set and **what** is the weapon?
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7. In verses 18-20, Paul exhorts the reader in various things. **What** are those things?
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8. **(Optional)** Write down any **additional** observations from your study time this week not covered in the observation questions above. This is the ‘who, what, when, where, why, and how’ of the passage.
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### Day 3 - Additional Observations

9. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.
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10. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links “purposeful parallels.” If so, write those down below.
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11. **Word Studies:** Use the “Blue Letter Bible” or your favorite word study method to look up the word listed below: Ephesians x:x (NKJV), **“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”** - This week’s word from the passage above: **“wiles (schemes)”**

Write out the Greek word phonetically so you can learn how to pronounce it. What are some definitions of the word provided by the Greek dictionary? How does understanding the Greek word help you in understanding this passage more fully?

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12. **Optional Word Studies:** Look up words you are curious about in the passage in a Greek dictionary. Write the word out phonetically and how understanding the Greek word helps you understand the passage more fully.
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#### **Day 4 - Interpret**

Now that we have determined what the text says, move into interpretation. The meaning of the text is not subjective. The goal of interpretation is to discover God’s intended meaning for the text we just read and provided observations for.

13. Verses 10-20 is Paul’s final lesson that he imparts to the readers of this letter. Meditate upon these verses. What lesson(s) is Paul teaching his readers as he signs off on this wonderful letter?
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14. **Optional:** Write down additional interpretations from your study time down below.

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### **Day 5 - Life Application**

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

15. Based on your interpretation above, write a challenging life application for yourself that will personalize the exhortation that Paul gave his readers.

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16. **Optional:** Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

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### **Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Memory Verse**

As you've had time to meditate on this week's passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you'd like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

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### **Notes from Teaching**

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