

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

Starting point:

If you have not heard the sermon, please take the time to go to our website www.vcfj.org and listen to it BEFORE you start this small group lesson. It will allow you to take notes along the way and be ready for the questions at hand. Remember, this is not an exercise but rather a group discussion to help you on our Journey to Greatness. May the Lord bless your faithfulness.

OVERVIEW

- **Read 2 Tim. 4:7.** Is there such a thing as a “good fight?”
- What is Paul talking about in this verse as he writes to Timothy?

As Followers of Christ, WE FACE A NEVER ENDING STRUGGLE AGAINST EVIL

- **Re-read 2 Tim 4:7a.** The Greek word translated “fought” is AGONIZOMAI which literally means “to engage in conflict.”
- What is Paul saying to us as followers of Christ? At this time, what is at stake for Paul?
- What is at stake for us today?
- What is the enemy after in Paul’s struggle?
- How about our struggle?

- **Read Gal 2:11-14.** What is the battle Paul is talking about?
- What is the main point Paul wants both the Gentiles and Jews to know?
- What is the key word Paul uses in **verse 11** to help us understand the context of the problem?
- What changed in Peter between the time Paul and Peter agreed in Jerusalem and when he arrived in Antioch?
- **Read Gal. 2:12-14.** What was the battle that was going on?
- What other friend of Paul fell to peer pressure to avoid another out-break of persecution?
- What did Paul do with Peter to “fight the good fight” of faith?

As Followers of Christ, WE HAVE TO FIGHT TO FINISH THE RACE

- *In 2 Tim. 2:3-4*, What does Paul tell Timothy?
- What can we learn from Paul's life and his ministry on how we ought to live?
- *Read 2 Cor. 11:23-28.*
- What do we learn from these verses about Paul's fighting the good fight?

As followers of Christ WE HAVE BEEN FULLY EQUIPED BY GOD.

Eph. 6:13-20

- What is the armor that God has given us to withstand the schemes of the devil?
- Is there an order for us to put on the armor that God gave us?
- What does it mean when we "put on the armor of God?"

BELT OF TRUTH

- How did the Roman Soldier use his belt?
- Why does Paul use the "soldiers belt" to be an important tool to help us in our battle.
- What happens to us if we don't wear the "belt of truth?"

BREAST PLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- What did the Roman Soldiers use the breast plate for to protect?
- How are we to use the Breast Plate of Righteousness?
- As we are wearing the Breast Plate of Righteousness, what is beginning to develop in us?

SHOES OF PEACE

- Why was it important for a soldier to have his feet "fully protected" as he prepared for battle?
- What are the Shoes of Peace fitted for?
- What does the term "be fully prepared" imply?
- The Shoes of Peace that God supplies have two purposes? What are they and how will this help us?

APPLICATION

- How do you handle peer pressure?
- What can we learn from the way Paul "fought the good fight?"
- What are some important TRUTHS that you wear on your belt to protect you from the devil?
- How is the world's truth different from God's TRUTH?
- Why is it so important to protect your heart?
- How can putting on the Shoes of Peace help you make good choices?