

Aim: The last piece of the armour of God: The shield of faith. Why do we need a shield? What is faith? Next week we will look at actions and their relationship to faith.

Reference: Re-enactment picture by Neil Carey <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ncarey/> - www.flickr.com/photos/ncarey/144042243/, CC BY-SA 2.0, commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2428371

What is the last piece of the armour of God? (Eph 6:16)

Discuss: What is the purpose of a shield?

1. The shield gives added protection for the heart.
2. The shield can also be used to protect the entire body.

Roman soldiers had to worry about weapons like swords and arrows. What does Paul say we should use the Shield of Faith for? Ephesians 6:16

(To put out the flaming arrows of the devil)

Over the last few weeks we have talked about some of the ways that Satan attacks people's hearts and minds and we found out that the Bible has answers for all of these attacks. (If there is time) Let's review them.



Satan wants to fill our hearts with feelings and our minds with thoughts like the following:

- Badness, carelessness and disregard for others (God wants to fill us with His love – Mark 12:30, 31)
- Pride (God will help us to be humble – Zechariah 4:6)
- Sadness and discouragement (God wants to fill us with His joy – Romans 15:13)
- Anger (God will help us forgive and God will forgive us – Matthew 6:12)
- Fear (God's love gives us courage – Isaiah 41:10)
- Business with worldly things (God wants us to be busy with Heavenly things – Matthew 6:33)

God has the answer to everything.

What are some reasons that people don't go to church?

Discuss the reasons and what you would want to say to them and what they might say back. (This could be done in small groups)

- They don't believe God is real
- I don't want to worship a God who allows such bad things to happen
- I can never be good enough for God
- They believe God made the world and then left it to run itself
- How can the Bible be true when evolution has been proved?
- They can't see how the creator of the universe could have an interest in them
- I'm not ready to follow God
- I haven't found a church that feels right yet
- It's old fashioned to go to church
- The church has done so many bad things
- The Bible is just a history book
- The Bible is just a bunch of fairy tales
- How can a book written 2000 years ago be relevant today?

This is where faith comes in. It takes faith to believe in God who we can't see.

Read Hebrews 11:1 and John 3:8

God is like the wind. You cannot see God, but you can see the things that He does in people's lives.