

# April 26 Discussion Questions

## “Into the Fray”

### Ephesians 3:10

#### **Review**

MAIN POINT: The **church** is the evidence of Jesus’ victory in a cosmic war

1. **Recognize** that we are in a cosmic war
2. **Embrace** our role as a church in that war
3. **Charge** into the fray!

#### **Connect**

1. What are some examples of important things going on around us everyday that we give no thought to? Why are they important? Why do we never consider it?
2. How often do you consider the spiritual battle that is raging around us everyday? Why is it important? Why do we rarely consider it?

#### **Read Ephesians 3:10**

#### **Discuss**

3. Look at Ephesians 1:3-14. What do we learn about our current position and blessing in Christ? Which one most amazes you today?
4. Look at Ephesians 2:10. In addition to our spiritual blessing, what has God designed us to do? How has He uniquely prepared us for this?
5. How do we understand “the heavenly places” in Ephesians 3:10? Read Ephesians 6:12. What is the nature of the war we are engaged in? What reaction does this produce in you?
6. While our unseen enemy often prefers to work inconspicuously, how has the COVID-19 pandemic awakened your eyes and our world’s eyes to his work?
7. What is the purpose of the church in relation to this spiritual war? Why do you think God chose to use the church in this way?
8. Do you believe the victory of Jesus is more apparent and attractive through our individualized efforts or our corporate efforts? Why?

#### **Apply**

9. Satan strategically attacks our weak points at opportune times. What weak area is Satan inclined to attack in you? When are you most vulnerable?
10. What are plans you can put in place to better stand against Satan’s attacks?
11. How do we as the church currently make known the victory of Jesus to the world around us? How can we at Oakwood increase the revelation of Jesus’ victory to our community? How about your community group?

12. How can we more actively encourage one another in our spiritual battles? What are questions you can begin normally asking to address this unseen reality?

### **Pray**

13. Pray for God to increase our awareness of the spiritual battle and to properly prepare for it together.

#### **Weekly Prayer Focus from Prayer Team**

**Personal:** Pray we would each recognize and embrace our unique role in making God known. Pray also we would have courage to engage in this battle because of His love for us. *His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Ephesians 3:10-11

**Ministry:** Mike and Kathi Maggard serve with Strategic Impact International Ministries. Pray for clear direction of God's timing as they seek to schedule international ministry trips this year. Pray also that Mike's ankle will continue to heal for God's Kingdom purposes.

## **The "How can I pray for you?" Challenge**

**The challenge for each person in your community group for the next two weeks is to ask this question to at least one person.** I have found many of my neighbors are outside during this season. I often ask them how they are doing and what they think of this pandemic. I asked one of them a few days ago how I could be praying for them. You could also text a friend or coworker the question. It could even be some entirely random at the grocery store! The second challenge would be to ask permission to pray with them for that very thing right there!

### **How can I implement this in my group?**

**The goal is for you to pose the question to your groups this week.** Encourage your group by text midweek to remember the challenge! Then follow up for the next two weeks during your meeting time to discuss how the challenge went. You can ask these questions:

1. *Who did you ask the question to?*
2. *What did they ask prayer for?*
3. *Were you able to pray with them right then?*
4. *Do you sense they are open to the gospel?*

5. *Do you intend to continue the spiritual conversation? How so?*
6. *If you didn't ask the question to someone, why was this the case?*