



# 246



## THE ARMOR OF GOD

## Lesson 8— Sword of the Spirit (part 2)

Review: Can you name all of the 6 parts of the armor of God?

### I. Preparing to Read God's Love Letter to Me

- A. Set aside time in ADVANCE in a QUIET place
  - 1. Set a time that you will be CONSISTANT on
  - 2. Do it when your mind is the clearest
  - 3. Start with 10 minutes a day and slowly increase it
- B. PRAY before and after I read my Bible

### II. Things to Know Before You Begin Reading/Studying

- A. There may be several applications, but there is only 1 original meaning
- B. The Bible is either FULLY true or FULLY false; we can't pick and choose what we like
- C. We are accountable for everything in God's Word because it is true

### III. Selecting Your Scripture

- A. Start with something you know you can FINISH
  - 1. Try not to pick a random portion of scripture then do something different the next day
  - 2. Start by dedicating a week or more to a specific book or portion of scripture
    - \*will help you to better understand the full context and meaning
    - \*each reading will build off the previous day
- B. Start by selecting something that you CONNECT with
  - 1. Something already being taught at church or in a Bible study
  - 2. Something you are passionate about or interested in learning more about
  - 3. Something that you can do with another believer (to share with each other)

### IV. What to Do

- A. Begin by reading the introduction if you have a study Bible
  - 1. who wrote it and who was it written to
  - 2. why did the author write this; what is the point he will try to get across to the readers?
    - \*oftentimes, the author will state this at the beginning (like I Timothy 1:1-3)
- B. Read a paragraph/section at least 2 times (sometimes separated by division headings)
  - 1. Start at the beginning of the book, not in the middle so you always understand context
  - 2. Remember that the chapter headings, numbers, and divisions are not inspired
- C. Highlight, underline, and/or write notes in your Bible as God teaches you things

D. The next day, review what you have already studied before you begin

## V. Important Things to Look For

- A. What ideas, sayings, words, themes, etc. do I continuously see?
- B. How do all these things fit into what the writer was intending to say?
- C. 5 important questions:
  - 1. What does this teach me about God & Jesus?
  - 2. What does this teach me about sinful humanity?
  - 3. What does God want me to know?
  - 4. What does God want me to do (application)?

## VI. Let's Try it Out!

\*Split into your cell groups and cell group leaders give a run-down on I Timothy 1-4.

- 1. Who was the book written by, written to, and purpose of the story?
- 2. What has the writer been talking about up to this point?

\*Read I Timothy 4:11-5:2 two times by yourselves

\*Answer the following questions as a group:

- 1. Based on what Paul has already been telling Timothy, what is Paul getting at here?
- 2. What does this have to do with God/Christ?
- 3. What does this teach me about sin?
- 4. What is God's Word teaching me?

\*You have probably heard "Let no one despise your youth." How is this different than before you studied the context?

# VERSE FOR THE WEEK



**II Timothy 3:16-17** - All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.