

groups.

Notes | May 24, 2026

Church Unbranded: The Church is the Army

God's purpose for the Church was to have a spotless Bride, a Temple where He could dwell, a Family predestined for adoption to Himself, the Light of the World created to shine on a hill as we point others to Him, and an army the gates of Hell would not overcome.

As Charles Spurgeon put it: *"The Church is an army marching through the land, and every believer is called to stand shoulder to shoulder in the battle for Christ."*

In today's key scripture, Paul calls Timothy and each of us into something countercultural: "Join him in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus." While the world defines an army as powerful, militant, and political, we are called to be united in Him. We are called to be soldiers who follow their Commander, understanding that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against spiritual forces of evil.

Key Scripture | 2 Timothy 2:3-4

"Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs but rather tries to please his commanding officer."

Related Scriptures

Matthew 16:18 NLT, John 10:10, Ephesians 6:10-18, 1 Peter 5:8, Exodus 17:10-13

Icebreakers:

Q: If you had to defend yourself in combat using only one fruit or vegetable, which one would you choose and why?

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Key Thoughts and Reflections:

I. Who am I?

Q: How does Paul refer to Timothy in our key scripture? Does our identity change when we are united in the Army of God? Why or why not?

Q: The Greek word for soldier, in our key scripture, is στρατιώτης, translated *stratiōtēs*, which is where we get the word strategy from. Name the ways an army must strategize when in battle.

Q: Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What are the strategies our Commanding Officer has given us as we face the spiritual battle?

II. Who is my enemy?

Q: From our reading in Ephesians, who is not our enemy according to Paul? Who is our enemy?

Q: Read John 10:10. What does the thief do? Make a list of ways he attempts to carry out his schemes. In the strategies accumulated from Ephesians 6, how are we called to fight these schemes?

Q: What does Paul tell us specifically in verse eighteen to do for others? How might this apply to people who are on the other side of the battle line?

III. Why can't I fight alone?

Q: What did Jesus say He would build in Matthew 16:18? Why do you think He added, "and all the powers of hell will not conquer *it*?"

Q: Read 1 Peter 5:8. What can happen when we attempt to fight the enemy on our own? How does this change when we stand side by side and battle together?

Q: The Church is an Army for Christ, standing together as One. How can your group stand together as one to BE the army?

Get Practical

In John 10:10, Jesus said: *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."* God has blessed us with Jesus, our Commanding Officer who leads us, a strategy to face our enemy, and an army in the Church who stands with us. In your time with the Lord this week, ask Him to reveal ways you can stand with those in your group. Does someone need prayer? Do they need help learning scripture? Are they facing a battle that needs an Aaron and Hur to intercede on their behalf? How can your group join to help one another as you follow your Commanding Officer? Write down Ephesians 6:10-18 and hang it somewhere that you can read and pray on this armor daily. If you need prayer, reach out to your small group leader or text prayer to 37748 so we can pray with you.