

The Shield of Faith

God wants you to live in the good of the victory that Jesus has won for you on the cross. The Enemy wants to discourage you, deceive you and distract you from it. If you are a Christian, Jesus has given you a shield of faith that is more than enough to protect you from the Enemy's attacks.

Questions for discussion:

"I realised that day the importance of being dressed appropriately for the conditions."

- Have you ever been caught out, wearing the wrong clothes for the conditions or the occasion?
- What was the result?
- What do you think it means to be "clothed with Christ"? (see Galatians 3:26-27)

Read Ephesians 7:10-18 (focusing on verse 16).

"Take up the shield of faith..."

- What is faith?
- see Hebrews 11:1
- Why do you think faith is characterised as a 'shield'?

"We must use the shield of faith swiftly (as a first line of defence)."

- Why do you think Paul describe the Enemy's attacks on God's people as 'fiery darts'?
- Can you think of a time when a small, seemingly innocuous dart from the Enemy turned into an out-of-control fire in your mind?
- How can we put these fires out?
- How did Jesus respond to the Enemy's fiery darts in *Matthew 4:1-11*?

"We must use the shield of faith continuously."

- Why do you think Paul instructs us to use the shield of faith "in all circumstances" in verse 16?
- It seems that we are likely to be tempted to 'put down' our shield of faith for a moment. Why do you think this is? When are you most likely to be off guard against Enemy attack?
- How can we cultivate perseverance in the fight of faith?

"We must use the shield of faith together."

- When you read Ephesians 6:10-18, do you imagine a one-on-one duel between you and the Enemy?
- Have you experienced seasons in life where you feel more vulnerable to Enemy attack?
- How can we use our shield of faith to protect others in church?
- Is there a situation that you're facing right now or an area of your life that you need faithful encouragement in from others?
- Spend some time reminding one another of God's promises and praying for Him to fill you with His power.