



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM GUIDE

Stand Firm Week 3: Breastplate of Righteousness
July 25 & 28, 2024

LEADER NOTES: Summer trimester: June 3–July 28; Fall trimester: August 19–December 8. **New Leader Trainings:** August 11 at every campus, August 19 via Zoom.

Be aware of the intensity of this sermon series and how the idea of spiritual warfare will land differently on each of your group members. Our beliefs about Satan and demons are greatly influenced by our upbringing and churches we have attended. Beware of group members falling into one of two extremes. 1. You don't believe in Satan or demons or that we are at war at all. 2. You see the devil and demons around every corner.

New Episode of *Leading Well in 7 Minutes or Less* podcast: How to discern the Holy Spirit's leading in your life, ministry, work and relationships. You can listen to every episode of the podcast for free on [Spotify](#) or [Apple](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS: We'd love to hear about your disciple group experience. Please take a few minutes to provide feedback in the anonymous survey by clicking this link: [2024 Disciple Groups Survey](#) (Leaders, please share this link with everyone in your group.)

Help Our First Responders: Your group can "adopt a station" by sponsoring a local firehouse or police substation. You are asked to touch base with them four to six times a year, pray for them and with them, and provide gift baskets twice a year. Contact greg.farah@coe22.com for more information.

Summer Serve Opportunities: Share the hope of the gospel in the Jacksonville area. There are countless opportunities for you and your family to serve alongside our ministry partners in the city or from the comfort of your home. Click coe22.com/localmission to learn more and signup to serve.

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN: Download our app for [Apple](#) and [Android](#). Click the "Daily" icon at the bottom of the app for our daily Bible reading plan.

Share Wins, Praises and Prayers: Where did you see God move this week? What did you do with the Action Step last week?

Sermon Text: *Philippians 3:1-11*.

Discussion Questions

Read Philippians 3:1-11.

What does righteousness mean to you?

Read Isaiah 59:17; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 1:16-17; Romans 8:37; and Proverbs 4:23.

Based on these verses, discuss why a breastplate is a fitting description of righteousness. How does this help us understand who we are and how does it protect us against the schemes of the enemy?

- *Isaiah 59:17 – Jesus was described as being covered in righteousness and the breastplate mentioned by Paul is actually His that we wear.*
- *2 Corinthians 5:21 – Jesus became sin so we could become Christ's righteousness. Like a breastplate is a covering and a protection, Christ's righteousness protects us from the eternal consequences of our sin. Like the father in Luke 15 offers the prodigal son his perfect, spotless robe to cover his soiled body, Jesus offers us His righteousness as a gift.*
- *Romans 1:16-17 – True righteousness comes with power for all who are impacted by it.*
- *Romans 8:37 – As we heard in the testimony video this week, we can't put on a breastplate ourselves; Christ places His righteousness on us which is what makes us victorious.*
- *Proverbs 4:23 – Above all else, guard your heart. A breastplate physically protects your heart and vital organs, and wearing Christ's righteousness protects our hearts from spiritual attacks of the enemy.*

DISCOVER: We are all trying to protect our hearts with something. Pastor Joby said we will put on the breastplate of righteousness or a fig leaf to cover who we really are. What are you trying to cover yourself with? Take a moment to reflect on the fig leaves you're hiding behind -- success, kid's success, religious activity (see Matthew 7:21-23), social media image, etc. Leaning on your own self-righteousness will either make you puffed up or exhausted. Counterfeit breastplates can never truly protect us. In fact, as we heard in the testimony video, the weight of trying to be righteous on our own is heavier than God's righteousness for us.

DEEPEN: What do you need to take off in order to put on Christ's breastplate of righteousness? How can we as your group support you with that? "The only paperwork that matters on the day of judgement is not your resume but Christ's invitation." We heard Paul's resume which was the best of the best of his time and in his culture, but he had to give up the privilege that came with that pedigree in order to follow Christ. Following Jesus means forsaking our sinfulness AND our self-righteousness. In Philippians 3:8 Paul says, "I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

Reread Philippians 3:9-11.

DISCOVER: What parts of the whole gospel do you see in these verses? Half of the gospel is that "Jesus died for our sins," but there is no power in being only a forgiven sinner, narrowly escaping hell and still smelling like smoke. The whole gospel is that Jesus died for our sins in our place AND that we have taken His place as well – restored as a child of God, seated at the right hand of the father and promised an irrevocable, eternal inheritance with God.

DEEPEN: Discuss the difference between imputed and imparted righteousness. Imputed righteousness is given; imparted righteousness means "I do my part" and actually perverts the gospel. Positional righteousness comes by salvation comes first then practical righteousness happens over time through sanctification. Knowing the difference in our own hearts is critical because the same activity, depending on the condition of the heart, will either bring glory or judgement from the Lord. Right standing motivates you to right living; right living does not earn you right standing. For a deep dive on this, listen to Ray Cortes from Saturated 2016.

DISCOVER: How does an accurate understanding of your righteousness in Christ release the power of the gospel in your life? Knowing Jesus fuels a life of power to fight and win the battles against sin and the enemy.

DEEPEN: Where do you need gospel power and truth in your life right now? *LEADERS*, this question is an opportunity to really ask your group members about whether they *KNOW* Jesus. Close by praying in group over each of those areas and asking for the power of God to move.

Action Steps

A Disciple...Loves All People, Discovers Identity in Jesus, Deepens Relationship with Jesus

Memorize Philippians 3:9 or 2 Corinthians 5:21 and share why you chose that one with someone this week.

Pastor Joby gave us the homework to listen to Ray Cortes from Saturated 2016 – at

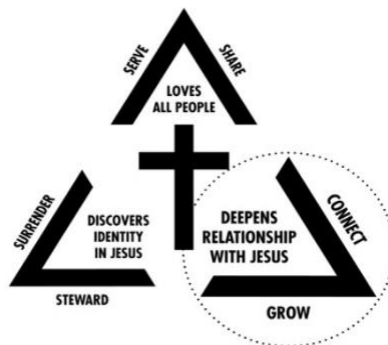
<https://coe22.com/sermons/saturated-2016-02/>.

Your Discipleship Journey

RightNow Media: Find *an unending supply of resources* by signing up for a FREE RightNow Media account. Go to coe22.com/rightnowmedia or text “RightNow” to 441122.

(Note: You'll need to login or create an account to view RightNow Media content.)

Details on the 10:10 Life are available at coe22.com/1010life.



Go to coe22.com/resources/discipleship-journey/ and click “Download Tool” to download or print a discipleship journey tool with questions for you to ask yourself and others. Please share the link and directions with others in your group.