

MENS LIFE BLOOMINGTON — Week 2

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Authentic Brotherhood | Battlefield Tactics

Overview: In the movie *Gladiator*, Maximus tells his men before the gates open: “Whatever comes out of these gates, we’ve got a better chance of survival if we stay together. Hold the line. Stay with me.” That scene reminds us of Ephesians 6—life is not a playground but a battleground. The enemy is real, but God equips us with armor, strategy, and the strength to stand firm. We move from Boot Camp to live action on the battlefield.

Verse: “Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.” Ephesians 6:11 NIV

Video: *Gladiator* – Arena Battle Preparation Scene

Presentation Points:

- The Christian life is a **battlefield, not a playground**—our real enemy is unseen spiritual forces, not people.
- God equips us with the **full armor of God** (truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and His Word) so we can stand firm.
- Like Maximus’ soldiers, we are stronger when we **stand together and lock shields** in faith and unity.
- Victory comes through **God’s strength and continual prayer**, not our own willpower.

Discussion Questions:

Getting Dressed for Battle

- What does “putting on the full armor of God” look like in daily life?
- Which piece of armor (truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, Scripture) do you most need to strengthen right now?

Knowing the Real Enemy

- How do you see people mistakenly treating other people as “the enemy”?
- What changes when you remember your real battle is not against flesh and blood?

Using Every Piece of Armor

- Thinking of a recent challenge, what piece of armor could have helped you stand stronger?
- How does Scripture (sword of the Spirit) or prayer make a difference in those moments?

Standing Together

- In *Gladiator*, the soldiers survived by staying together. What does “locking shields” look like for us as men of faith?
- Where do you need other men to stand with you right now—and how can you do the same for them?

Closing Prayer: Lord, we are daily reminded of the need to be ready for battle. The signs are all around us. Even though we don’t see our enemy face-to-face, it doesn’t lessen the importance of being prepared. Help us use the spiritual armor you have provided... and to use it to its fullest extent. May we know our enemy well and how the attacks can personally affect me. Help me to not fight alone and may prayer always be my go-to. Amen.

Next Lesson: Prayer as Breath (3-weeks)