

Leader's Guide: What You Wear

## *Leader's Guide*

### **What You Wear**

#### ***Belt, Breastplate and Helmet***

These leader's guides are designed to help stimulate our thinking in terms of how we can get the most out of the material and help others to fish out insights that perhaps are not so apparent to them. These documents are living papers and will be updated regularly. Feel free to add your own discussion topics!

We will list the section and page number(s) from *The Ezra 7<sup>10</sup> Plan Book 1– First Love: A Heart to Understand* for easy referencing.

#### ***Belt***

Pages 98 – 100

- ❶ Discuss why faithfulness in a soldier is so important to success in battle.
- ❷ If workers on a job are unreliable or not trustworthy what measures must an owner pursue in order to ensure the success of his company?
- ❸ While we may not think of each day as a spiritual battle, why is it a good idea to begin each day by readying ourselves with the belt of truth (faithfulness)?
- ❹ From a practical standpoint, how do we wear this spiritual belt of truth and how do we make sure that it stays on?

***Belt continued***

Pages 98 – 100

- ⑤ If it is never too late to get into shape physically or spiritually, why do some convince themselves that they cannot get into shape?
- ⑥ Discuss the group's answers to the homework on page 100.

***Breastplate***

Pages 101 – 104

- ① Going into a battle without armor covering the front of our body would be foolish. Spiritually why would we allow sin to remain unconfessed, which is the same as not wearing the breastplate of righteousness?
- ② As a side note for the story on page 101, Joshua and Caleb could have been extremely angry that the other ten people gave a bad report on the Promised Land and as a result they had to wait 38 more years as well. They surely would have been tempted to go ahead and enter the land with the rebels. Discuss what prevented them from being so presumptuous.
- ③ Is it barely possible that while we remain in the spiritual doldrums, not owning up to our sin, that we can compound this state by further pursuing other sinful actions because we may not care at the moment? How can we be yanked out of this depressing sinful state?
- ④ On page 103 the question is asked: Who are the Big Three of Righteousness? Who are they and why do we think the Lord credited them with such a high honor?
- ⑤ Discuss the group's answers to the homework on page 104.

## ***Helmet***

Pages 105 – 108

❶ Going into a battle without a helmet is not wise. In a spiritual sense, what type of attacks are we vulnerable to if we do not wear the helmet of salvation?

❷ Ask the group to discuss the following statement on page 105: *We cannot lose our salvation if it is genuine, but the accuser will try his best to make us doubt the legitimacy of our salvation.* What thoughts make us doubt the reality of our eternal forgiveness and salvation?

❸ We can struggle with being involved in ministry, and in spiritual battles, if we have experienced failures in the past. We may hope that God has forgiven us, but we doubt that others have forgiven us. How can a firm belief in God's forgiveness remove the fear of people's judgments and opinions?

❹ From a practical standpoint, how do we put on this spiritual helmet of salvation and how do we make sure that it stays on?

❺ Discuss the group's answers to the homework on page 107.

❻ Discuss the table, *Summary of the Armor of God*, on page 106 to see if there are any additional insights we can glean from these spiritual defensive weapons.