

Fall Cultivate Bible Study: The Armor of God

Week 6 Discussion Guide
Christina Crowley – Salvation
along with a closing word from Tammy Brown

It's the final week of our fall study! Over the past 6 weeks, we've cultivated the armor of God into our lives SO THAT we are equipped to endure the battles of this life with courage and commitment. By living out our vision to be REAL with self, God and others we've grown and changed from the inside out. You might not be where you want to be, but you're not where you were. Our prayer is that you walk forward in truth, righteousness, peace and faith, reminded of the promise of your salvation and the wholeness that comes from pursuing Jesus, heart, mind, soul and strength.

Watch our final teaching video, then use this discussion guide to reflect, respond and pray. ***Be sure to tune in at the end of Christina's message for a closing word of encouragement from Tammy Brown.***

| Cultivate Wholeness |

Salvation is essential to wholeness because it not only holds our promise for tomorrow but our purpose for today.

| Key Verses |

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9 NLT

"Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect." Romans 12:2 NLT

"O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand! I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence." Psalm 139:1-7 NLT

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life." Psalm 139:23-24 NLT

"I will bless the Lord who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me. I know the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me." Psalm 16:7-8 NLT

| Video Notes |

Fill in the blanks following the on-screen prompts:

1. Salvation in Jesus provides both _____ and _____.
2. The enemy can't separate us from God's _____, but he'll fight to separate us from the _____ we're called to live.
3. We need to _____ our _____ on the mind of God.
4. God doesn't just leave us with a _____. He leads us to a _____.
5. We need to _____ our _____ into the hands of God.
6. We need to _____ in _____ on behalf of others.
7. Prayer isn't just a _____ reaction from something. It's an _____ response to something.

| Reflect & Discuss |

1. Our salvation in Jesus provides both promise and purpose. We are saved from something and for something. How have you personally experienced the promise (saved from) of salvation? Is there a particular purpose (saved for) you have felt led to pursue as a result? There's no right or wrong answer here, and what you most value as your "from" and "for" may change as you grow and mature in faith.
2. The devil wants to separate us from our purpose – through distraction, division, discouragement, defeat, disqualification. In which of these ways do you feel the most vulnerable to attack? What piece(s) of the armor of God could you use, or have you used, to protect you?
3. It's through prayer that we fight for promise and purpose. How has God shown up for you when you've prayed? In what ways do you need to show up and fight for yourself or others through prayer? Be specific, then commit to cultivating prayer into your life in this way.
4. In her closing message, Tammy challenged us that the enemy wants us to believe that the longer we walk with Jesus, the fewer battles we will face. In fact, the opposite is true – the longer we walk with Jesus, the more battles we endure and so, the more mature we become. Reflect on your recent battles. How have you experienced personal growth and spiritual maturity either as a result or along the way?

| Pray & Journal |

Be still before God, inviting Him to search your heart. If you'd like, journal your thoughts and prayers so that you can later look back on the REAL growth you experience this season.

Untamed thoughts can be dangerous and so, a vital step to cultivating wholeness in our lives is training our minds to align with God's thoughts. **Be REAL with self** as you consider your thought life. Are your thoughts a battleground for faith or a breeding ground for lies? Are you prone to pursue real truth or chase wayward wonders? What are some ways you have or could train your mind to distinguish lies from truth?

Unproductive thoughts can lead to untamed emotions, words and actions. **Be REAL with God** and ask Him to examine your heart and show you if there is anything that you need to forfeit [surrender, relinquish, give over] into His hands. God wants His truth to set us free SO THAT we can live in His purpose for us. What would it look like to let go of what you think is true, so you are free to live out what God says is true?

Prayer is our offensive response in the battle. **Be REAL with others** this week and invite someone you trust to pray for you in a specific way – either in a battle you're facing, a truth you want to live out or a way you desire to grow. Then, link arms and offer to fight in prayer for them too!

| Dig Deeper |

Choose any of the dip deeper opportunities to cultivate more of God's word into your life. Consider looking up the verses in a different bible translation/version for added perspective.

- Read Psalm 139. Let God's presence, thoughts and love toward you transform your mind and heart.
- Read Romans 8:31-39 NLT: What things are no match against God's love for you? Despite all those things, what is yours? How could hiding this truth in your heart equip you in the battles to come? Respond to God with gratitude for his love. Pray for the way you most need to be held in that love today.
- Read Jeremiah 29:11-13 NIV: What are God's plans for you? What is our part in the planning process? Think back to your "REAL with God" answer above – why do you think your heart condition matters to God as you seek Him?

| References & Resources |

- If you or anyone in your group want to learn more about what a real relationship with Jesus looks like or you need prayer for something significant going on in your life, please go to sandalschurch.com/next.
- Our study may be over, but there's more! Serve as an ambassador of kindness by setting a table in your home, gathering the women in your life around it and together remembering the goodness of God. KIND Table is Friday, November 20! Find everything you need at cultivate.sc/kindtable.